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COMMENT, ARTS, HEALTH & MEDIA

Clinton flies in to Russian chaos

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton will arrive in Moscow today pledging continued US support for Russia so long as its leaders "stay on the path of reform" and do not revert to the communist ways of the past.

Speaking just before his departure to Moscow for two days of talks, Mr Clinton made no direct mention of the embattled Boris Yeltsin, who suffered a further setback yesterday with the Russian parliament's rejection of Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister.

"The Russian people are to be commended for embracing

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow
AND AGENCIES

democracy and getting rid of the old communist system, but they're having some troubles today making the transition from communism to a free-market economy," Mr Clinton said. He made clear, however, that he saw an important purpose in the summit, which some foreign policy experts have said should be postponed at least until Mr Yeltsin has created a governing coalition.

Russia's Communist-led

parliament roundly rejected President Yeltsin's nominee for prime minister in a move the Kremlin said could set off mass unrest and is certain to prolong the country's economic agony. Mr Chernomyrdin, who has been acting prime minister since Mr Yeltsin sacked Sergei Kiriyenko just over a week ago, won just 94 votes in the 450-member state Duma.

The rejection of Mr Yeltsin's candidate - the worst result ever for a Russian premiership nominee - also brought closer a major showdown, with pressure increasing on the ageing

Mr Yeltsin to quit and Mr Yeltsin, in turn, threatening to dissolve the Duma. The President re-submitted Mr Chernomyrdin's candidacy hours after the Duma's rejection, and members now have one week to reconsider.

Mr Chernomyrdin - who served five years as premier until Mr Yeltsin replaced him in March with Mr Kiriyenko - said that, despite his defeat, he would go ahead and propose an acting cabinet team to Mr Yeltsin. "Russia cannot do without a government," he said. "Russia today is, in essence, on

the verge of economic and political breakdown."

Back in the United States, President Clinton said: "What I want to do is to go there and tell them that the easy thing to do is not the right thing to do. The easy thing to do would be to go back to the way they did it before, and that's not possible. But that if they will stay on the path of reform to stabilise their society and strengthen their economy and get growth back, then I believe America and the rest of the Western nations should help them and indeed have an obligation to help them."

Mr Clinton made no mention of specific agreements he expected to reach during the Moscow summit, but he said there were many foreign policy issues that needed airing - strife in the Balkans, nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

Mr Chernomyrdin, meanwhile, promised the Duma he would protect the public's savings, prevent a collapse of the banking system and support farms and industry. Analysts fear that could fuel new inflation.

The acting prime minister had already made consider-

able concessions, including giving parliament more say in policy and promising to restore more state control over the economy, in draft pacts hammered out with the Duma parties over the weekend.

But the Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, rejected the deal at the last moment late on Sunday evening. Communist sources said he did so because he believed Mr Yeltsin would back away from giving up key powers that would have left him with greatly reduced influence.

Despite Mr Yeltsin's deter-

mination to see out his term of office, pressure is building once again for his resignation, and the Left may find an ally in the powerful business interests that want to see Mr Chernomyrdin appointed in the hope of averting further economic losses.

They, and Mr Yeltsin's family, may be ready to press the president to quit in favour of his premier or at least take a back seat until his term ends in 2000.

Duma ignores warning: Communist revival, page 8
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Sherlock the bloodhound gets on the trail with his trainer PC Malcolm Fish and shows why he is a better tracker than German Shepherds now used by police forces

David Rose

Hounds return to scene of the crime

BY JASON BENNETT
Crime Correspondent

BLOODHOUNDS, the wrinkle-faced stars of many a Hollywood thriller, look set to be used by British police forces following research that found they are far better tracker dogs than the traditional German Shepherds.

They are already being tested by Essex, Devon and Cornwall, and Dyfed-Powys police forces and a Home Office funded research project is to recommend using the dogs nationally. They can track human scent that is up to 20-hours old compared with German Shepherds that can only manage a maximum of about two hours.

PC Malcolm Fish, a dog instructor with Essex police, in charge of the research, is studying two eight-month-old Bloodhounds, Sherlock and Morse, along with two German Shepherd dogs, Regan and Scully. Critics say the dogs are too placid but PC Fish argues they would be used for tracking.

Blair plans new powers to seize assets of terrorists

SWEEPING POWERS to seize property belonging to suspected terrorists will be unveiled today as the Government details its security crackdown in the wake of the Omagh bombing.

The new measures will form a centrepiece of an emergency bill to go before a recalled parliament tomorrow to make easier to convict members of suspected terror groups.

The four organisations - the Ulster IRA, Continuity IRA, the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) and the Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) - will be specifically targeted in the bill.

By naming the groups in the Bill, the Government hopes to end off backbench criticism

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

that it is rushing through blanket legislation without detailed consideration.

Ministers insist that the Bill is highly specific and forensic in its nature and will have to be renewed annually to remain on the statute book.

The decision to publish the Bill today was another attempt to placate Labour MPs, some of whom were furious at earlier suggestions that it was to be made public tomorrow morning, only a few hours before they were due to vote.

The Bill will allow suspected members of the Real IRA, Continuity IRA, the INLA and

the LVF to be convicted on the uncorroborated evidence of a police officer and will allow courts to take into account any refusal to answer questions.

In an attempt to curb international terrorism, such as the bombings of United States embassies in east Africa, it will also contain measures to ban British-based groups that conspire to commit offences abroad.

Despite the Government's assurances, rebel Labour MPs are still planning to vote for an amendment drawn up by the party's former Northern Ireland spokesman Kevin McNamara.

Mr McNamara's amendment is expected to be tabled today and will claim that the Bill contravenes the European Con-

vention on Human Rights, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the procedures of the newly established International Criminal Court. It will also claim that previous miscarriages of justice, such as the conviction of the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four, prove the danger of sweeping police powers.

The Lords will consider the Bill on Thursday and if there are no substantial amendments it will become law.

The Irish government is also pushing through similar anti-terrorist measures this week and both governments want them in place ahead of the visit to Northern Ireland on Thursday by President Bill Clinton.

Anger as North Korea sends a missile flying over Japan

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARKY
in Tokyo

NORTH KOREA, the last surviving Stalinist dictatorship, proved once again that the Cold War is not quite over when it fired a long-range ballistic missile over the Japanese mainland yesterday, sending alarm throughout Asia.

The rocket was first spotted by an American Orion spy plane and last night Russian and Japanese ships were steaming towards the spot in the Sea of Japan, south-east of Vladivostok, where the first stage of the missile is believed to have landed.

A second stage was said to have flown over Japan to land in the Pacific Ocean - proof that the



world's most unpredictable country now has long-range missiles to go with its suspected nuclear capacity.

Diplomats insisted last night that the firing of the missile was

a test, but given suspicions that North Korea may possess one or more nuclear warheads, its successful launch will increase tension in the region. The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, said she was alarmed. "This is something that we will be raising with the North Koreans," she said.

According to defence officials in South Korea, the weapon was the new Taepo Dong I, with a range of 1,340 miles, capable of striking Tokyo, Taipei and Seoul.

The Japanese government's chief spokesman, Hirano Norioka, said the test "will have a serious impact on the situation in north-east Asia".

North Korea's missile programme has long been a cause

of concern, not only for the threat it poses to neighbouring countries but also because of the regime's sales of weapon systems to other countries. Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Libya and Syria are all believed to have been buyers. Recently, sales have plummeted. Among the reasons for yesterday's test may have been the desire to advertise one of its biggest export earners.

But the timing suggests political motives. Next week North Korea's acting leader, Kim Jong Il, is expected finally to be elected president. "One interpretation is that this missile is a gift, a demonstration of strength presented to the new leader on his accession," a foreign diplomat in Seoul said.

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Landowners
'still blocking
rights of way'

MPS CALLED on the Government to push ahead with a statutory right to roam yesterday after campaigners claimed to have new evidence that landowners were continuing to block rights of way.

The Ramblers' Association published a report that it said proved the Country Landowners Association had done little to meet its promise to open up footpaths across private land.

It claims that the leaked report into footpaths on a farm in Wiltshire was a perfect example of how the CLA had failed to improve public access. The assessment, carried out by the CLA on behalf of the Countryside Commission, found that bridleways were blocked and that a special access site was restricted by electric fencing.

The Ramblers' Association said that the case proved that the £70,000 of public money given to the CLA to improve access had been wasted. Since the site visit to Wiltshire a year ago, little improvement had been made.

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

Under a scheme called Access 2000, the CLA was given the cash to fund a full-time worker to tackle farmland nationwide where footpaths were blocked. Yet out of 20 planned assessments of problem land, just nine had been carried out and campaigners say that just 20 acres has been opened up in 18 months.

Gordon Prentice, MP for Pendle, said the report was further evidence that landowners could not be trusted to voluntarily guarantee public rights of way. He will ask the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, to investigate allegations that the CLA wasted public funds.

The CLA claimed that in the past five years a total of 1.1 million acres had been opened up voluntarily by landowners. It said that the Countryside Commission had not complained about the assessments and had even been part of a steering group to oversee its officer's work.



Ramblers walking past barbed wire yesterday in Long Copse, near Lane End in Buckinghamshire John Voos

Tax to win, says think-tank

A BLAIRITE think-tank is setting up a commission with the aim of breaking the taboo surrounding taxation and convincing the Prime Minister that Labour can win the next election on a tax-raising manifesto.

The Fabian Society is seeking to recover taxation from the Thatcherite belief that governments must be committed to tax-cutting to win elections. The review is to be carried out by Lord Plant of Highfield, the master of St Catherine's College, Cambridge, who headed a commission under the former Labour leader, John

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Smith, which recommended Labour to back electoral reform.

"Politically, this remains one of the most sensitive of political issues for the Labour Party," said the Fabian Society. "One of Labour's five election pledges was not to raise income tax rates in the present Parliament. It has become clear in the Government's first few months that this policy is absolutely non-negotiable. Indeed there is a sense in which both

inside the Labour Party and to a considerable extent outside it, the subject of taxation has become practically taboo."

The think-tank said the image of a "knee-jerk tax and spend approach to politics was a major contributor to voter disaffection from old Labour". And it added: "In turn, a commitment to keeping taxes low has been one of the defining features of new Labour."

But the demand for public spending, particularly in health and education, continued to rise not least because of the Government's own public com-

mitments. "In this context, a public debate about taxation is long overdue. The Labour Party's sensitivity to electoral and media pressure make it highly unlikely that such a debate will be stimulated from within the Government."

Lord Plant's commission will look at ways of re-establishing public acceptance for higher taxation, possibly through earmarking of taxes for specific projects. It will also carry out a comprehensive review of the structure of the tax system in this country.

Mistrust of governments

over their promises on taxation is blamed by the Fabian Society as one reason for widespread public disaffection from politics and political institutions in the UK. "The narrow terrain over which taxation policy has been argued in recent years - focusing almost entirely on headline personal tax rates - has been extremely damaging," said the Fabians.

Tony Blair overruled plans by Gordon Brown before the general election to introduce a 50p income tax band, but ministers believe new ways need to be found to raise taxes for

"good causes" such as curbing pollution.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has secured a deal with the Chancellor for raising taxes to curb car use on the understanding that the money will be kept for use on public transport.

Mr Brown is expected to announce plans in the autumn pre-Budget statement for an energy tax on industry if it is backed by a working party under Sir Colin Marshall, former president of the CBI.

Memo to Mr Blair
Review, page 4

IRA told to hand over weapons and bombs

THE IRA came under pressure last night to get rid of its weapons and declare its war is over.

Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said there was cause for concern that the IRA was still intent on keeping its guns and bombs while at the same time it called for those behind the Omagh bombing - the dissident Real IRA - to disband.

And both David Trimble,

By ALAN MURDOCH
In Dublin

Northern Ireland First Minister, and former Irish premier John Bruton said the IRA had had long enough to call an end to the war.

With unequivocal commitment to democracy being widely demanded in the wake of the Omagh atrocity, an IRA statement insisting it would not decommission or formally declare

its ceasefire permanent caused widespread dismay on both sides of the Irish border.

The Stormont deputy first minister-elect Seamus Mallon attacked the IRA's implication that it would not even divest itself of Semtex explosive. "Within the entire island of Ireland the attitude is that anything which is part and parcel of the type of explosion which we saw in Omagh has no role in the life that we want to create," he said.

The tough stance of Mr Bruton, leader of Fine Gael, will reinforce Ulster Unionists' unwillingness to accept Sinn Féin ministers in a Stormont executive unless they confirm the end of republican militarism. Sinn Féin is under pressure to give such a reassurance before President Clinton's arrival in Ireland on Thursday.

Mr Bruton, Taoiseach from 1995 until June last year, said it was "unthinkable" that "a

Cabinet minister with a private army that is still defying the state's laws" should hold office.

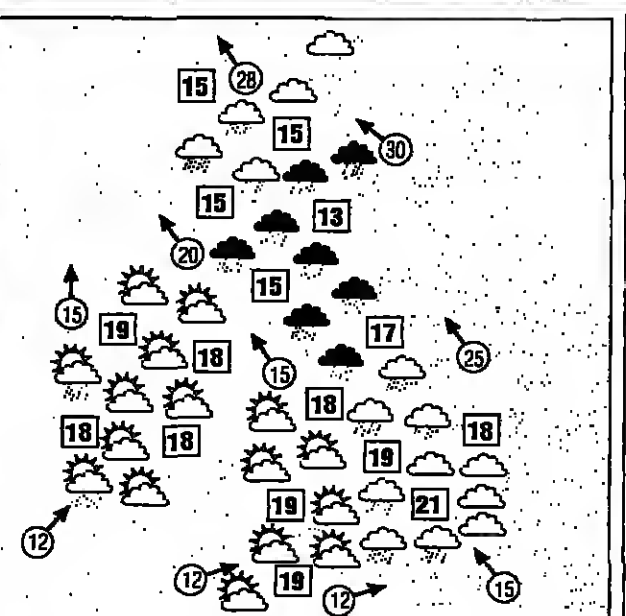
"Refusal to say that the war is over means that the IRA reserves the right to use warfare to get its way in defiance of the will of the people North and South" in May's referendum, he said.

A County Kildare man was charged in Dublin's Special Criminal Court with terrorist offences following the seizure of

1,000lb of home-made explosives at Dun Laoghaire ferry port in April. The bomb was believed to have been destined for use against a target in Britain.

John McNamara, 36, of Kildare, was charged with possession of explosives on 2 April with intent to cause explosions likely to endanger life or cause serious injury whether in the Irish state or elsewhere. He was arrested at his home early on Saturday.

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation Northern Ireland, Wales and south-west England with sea skies slowly brightening, but some slow moving afternoon showers are possible. The brighter skies will later spread into central southern England but remaining parts of England will be dull with some rain, heavy in the north. Windy in Scotland with rain in all but the far north.

SE England: Breezy with rain breaking out in places. A moderate south-east wind. Max temp 20-23C (68-73F).

Cent S England: Some rain then slowly brightening. A moderate south-east wind easing light south-west. Max temp 20-23C (68-73F).

SW England, Wales, Wales: Light rain clearing with skies brightening. A light south-west wind. Max temp 19-22C (66-72F).

Channell, SW England, Wales: Overcast rain clearing with skies brightening. A light south-west wind. Max temp 19-22C (66-72F).

NE Scotland, Aberdeen: Windy and light rain. A fresh to strong south-east wind. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F).

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OUTLOOK

Windy with rain in the far north of Scotland on Wednesday, sunny spells elsewhere with showers in the west. Rain in southern England on Thursday with some showers elsewhere, some of the showers rather sharp and localised.

TRAVEL

Roads: London: M1/A12 link road. Various restrictions in place. Until 31st December 1999. West Midlands: M5 between J5 (Sharnbrook) and J2 (Dunstable). Resurfacing work with narrow lanes both ways. Until 12th October. West Yorkshire: M1 between J43 Sharnbrook and J45 (Leighouse interchange) (M63). Roadworks with 50mph speed limit. Until 1st November. Buckinghamshire: M40 between junctions 1a (M25) & 3 Wycombe East. Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999. Berkshire: M4 between J16 Maidenhead and J7 Slough. New road layout with a 50mph speed limit in a new half-mile carriageway during road relief work. Until 20th November. Bristol: M5 J16-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001. A/R Roadworks: Call 0836 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

YESTERDAY

Warmest: Crawley, W. Sussex 24C (75F)
Coldest (day): Ballycastle 13C (55F)
Wettest: Sennybridge 0.13 in
Sunniest: Durness, Sutherland 11.8 hrs

For 24hrs to 2pm Monday

	Sun	Mon	Max	Min
Aberdeen	9.0	0	18	6A
Anglesey	11.6	0	21	70
Arundel	6.8	0.0	19	66
Belfast	5.7	0	19	66
Birmingham	5.7	0	21	70
Bournemouth	6.0	0	22	72
Bristol	11.3	0	24	75
Buxton	4.0	0	19	66
Cardiff	5.7	0	24	75
Clacton	2.3	0	17	63
Cromer	1.3	0.01	17	63
Dumfries	11.8	0	19	66
Edinburgh	11.8	0	19	66
Exeter	11.8	0	20	68
Flint	2.2	0	19	66
Gloucester	11.8	0	21	70
Hastings	8.7	0	20	68
Hove	9.2	0	21	70
Isle of Man	10.0	0	19	66
Isle of Wight	11.6	0.01	21	70
Jersey	12.1	0	24	75
Kent	6.0	0	20	68
Leeds	1.9	0	21	70
Lewisham	3.3	0.01	14	57
Littlehampton	10.3	0	20	68
London	3.9	0	21	70
Lowestoft	0.2	0.02	16	61
Manchester	5.2	0	21	70
Margate	2.5	0	19	66
Morecambe	8.0	0	21	70
Newcastle	5.0	0	20	68
Newquay	5.7	0	22	72
Norwich	0	0.01	17	63
Oxford	9.0	0	22	72
Portsmouth	10.2	0	23	73
Salisbury	11.5	0	19	66
Scarborough	8.1	0	22	72
Sharnbrook	1.7	0	21	70
Southport	11.2	0	22	72
Swansea	11.4	0	20	68
Torquay	12.5	0	20	68
Weymouth	12.2	0	20	68

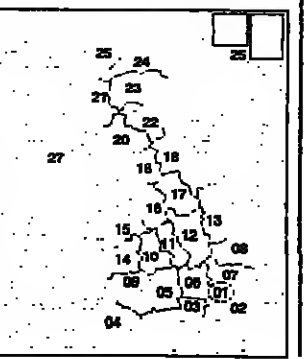
AIR QUALITY

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London	Mod	Good	Mod
S. England	Mod	Good	Mod
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C. England	Mod	Good	Mod
N. England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Mod	Good	Mod
Ireland	Good	Good	Mod

Sun & Moon
Sun rises: 06.13
Moon rises: 16.31
Moon sets: 00.33
Full Moon: September 6th

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THE WORLD

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Weymouth	12.2	0	20	68

AIR QUALITY

	NO ₂	O ₃	PM ₁₀
London	Mod	Good	Mod
S. England	Mod	Good	Mod
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C. England	Mod	Good	Mod
N. England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Mod	Good	Mod
Ireland	Good	Good	Mod

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Diana anniversary: All-night vigils in Paris and London, floral tributes at Kensington Palace and Harrods

Royal Family pray while Fayed unveils a shrine and a curse

BY GLENDA COOPER

"ARE WE allowed to smile?" said one girl posing in front of the shrine to Diana and Dodi as her mother took her photograph. "Yes, of course - let's have a nice smile," said her mother, in astonishment, clicking away.

Having a shrine to Diana and Dodi in Harrods inevitably meant more spectacle than solemnity. While the Windsors and the Spencers yesterday opted for low-key commemorations of the Princess, the tribute by Mohamed Al Fayed was huge, opulent and impossible to ignore.

Mr Fayed strode into the store at 1.45pm promising that his "Egyptian curse" would seek out those responsible for the Paris deaths. He said he had come to Harrods because he knew "thousands of people were here waiting for me ... it is the ordinary people who have given me support. They know exactly what's happened."

With both families out of London - the Windsors at Balmoral and the Spencers at Althorp - once again the public grumbled that the Royal Family were hiding from the People. ("They haven't learnt a thing," one queuer sniffed.) So the shrine, the tributes and Mr Fayed's walkabout followed by busy minders and scurrying journalists was the nearest they came to a semblance of last year's drama. If Diana's relations didn't want to know, then the people would stick with Dodi's.

People clutching their Harrods roses and their Harrods food hall bags (the prudent had obviously decided to combine the mourning with a bit of shopping) queued to look the two shrines, one in the window, destined for Mr Fayed's home, and the other at the foot of the Egyptian escalator. Five books of condolence were ready to be signed.

"God bless you Dodi and Diana, you are in Paradise" ... "You will always be together in Heaven" ... "Dodi you will never be forgotten by the genuine English people" ... "Dodi, the only man never to betray the princess" were a sample of the sentiments expressed.

For this was Dodi and Diana - The Love Story. Never mind that their romance had been a mere few weeks, or that her friends cast doubt on whether the relationship would have



Mohamed Al Fayed on walkabout yesterday outside Harrods. 'I am sure they are happy together,' he said. Right: an 8ft-high shrine to the Princess and Dodi Fayed inside the store



Tom Pilsford

developed. No, this was Abelard and Heloise, Romeo and Juliet, Tristan and Isolde all rolled into one. Whether people would have been as happy with a Mr and Mrs Fayed in reality was not open for discussion.

"The Establishment will not accept that Dodi as an Egyptian and as my son would have been the man that would have married Diana," said Mr Fayed yesterday. "I pray my beloved son and his dearest Diana have found peace and comfort in heaven. I am sure they are happy together."

Few disagreed. Dorrie Mitzen's remark - "It was only a holiday romance and I don't think anything would have come of it" - was not the sort that was appreciated.

"They would have definitely got married and they would have had a child," predicted Rose Drew, who was waiting to give her flowers personally to Mr Fayed. "Oh really, how can you say to me it was just a holiday romance?"

"I think it's important that we've come here for both Dodi and Diana," said Sheila Cooper from Twickenham. "He made her very happy in the last few months of her life. No other man had."

The 8ft-high shrines reflected this romantic view. Large and ornate, two gold entwined D's encircle pictures of the two lovers resting on top of bronze fountains. In the background the new CD by George Benson (£3.99, available around the store) in honour of Dodi softly played. In another corner there were tributes including a fluffy red heart left by well-wishers.

"The shrine symbolises Diana and Dodi's last holiday together when they were both very happy," explained Laurie Mayer, Mr Fayed's spokesman. "The seagulls and the greenery are reminiscent of the Mediterranean, the water represents eternity and the candles are obviously everlasting."

Most of those who came had visited Kensington Gardens or Buckingham Palace last year and were planning to go there after visiting Harrods. They were firmly supportive of Mr Fayed.

"I think it's disgusting," said Mary Mesbahi from Ruislip. "I don't know why they can't just give him British citizenship. We know that Dodi was the only man that ever made her happy."

Mr Fayed reiterated his feelings about last year's crash: "I am just looking to God. I will not rest," he said. "If it is not an accident and if it is murder, be sure that whoever did this murder will not escape from God. My Egyptian curse will not let them get away with it."

Asked if he had any message

for the Royal Family, there was a pointed pause. "I'm not sure about that, really. I feel sorry for the princess. They are very close, very loving and the most important thing to me ... But I am suffering too. I lost my son."

Clutching their CDs and flowers, most mourners agreed. "The Royal Family should be here. They haven't learnt anything," said Pauline Chedgy from Bath. "I feel sorry for the princess and I think people will never forget Diana and the way she was treated by

them," added Natalie Flood from Adelaide, Australia.

Last night the Harrods store, normally illuminated by 11,000 lightbulbs, was to remain in darkness except for the memorial window. It was the sort of gesture the people outside liked.

"Diana captured Dodi's heart. They represent lovers everywhere," cooed Ms Drew. And then, on a more practical note, she added: "And [Mr Fayed] is the only person who has put up a memorial that people can come and see for free."

No hysteria, but lots of flowers, tears and flags flying at half mast



A child lights a candle for Diana in Westminster Abbey yesterday

THE HYSTERICAL outpouring of grief never materialised, but there was enough evidence of mourning yesterday to show that, one year on, the Princess of Wales still occupies a special place in the nation's psyche.

All day long, people queued, some in tears, at Kensington Palace to lay flowers in her memory while less than a mile away, others gathered at the memorial to Diana and Dodi Fayed at Harrods.

Crathie Kirk at Balmoral where, only hours after their mother's death, the Princess William and Harry were taken to pray, was once again the place chosen by the Royal Family to remember Diana. The public were excluded for a 15-minute service when prayers were said for the Princess.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and his wife, Cherie, arrived first at the small church, followed later by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother, Prince Edward, the Princess Royal, her husband,

BY STEVE BOGGAN and LOUISE JURY

Captain Timothy Laurence, and her daughter, Zara Phillips.

At Althorp, the Spencer family seat in Northamptonshire, the public was also excluded from a small lakeside service opposite the island on which the princess is buried. Instead, thousands laid flowers at the gates of the estate.

Earl Spencer, who shocked the Royal Family with his criticism of them from the pulpit at Westminster Abbey, joined other family members, including his sisters, Lady Jane Fellowes and Lady Sarah McCorquodale, for a quiet ceremony. For the past two months, up to 2,500 people a day have paid £9.50 to visit her memorial.

Prayers were said at services at Westminster Abbey, while, at the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Westminster, more than 1,000 people heard Monsignor George Shack speak of Diana's dignity and compassion. "It

has surely been a surprise to us all that it seems it was her vulnerability which allowed people to empathise with her," he said.

At Buckingham Palace, the flag was flown at half-mast, in contrast to last year when none was raised as the Queen was not in residence - until a public outcry forced it aloft.

And there were prayers, too, in Paris, where hundreds of mourners, including many Britons, staged an all-night vigil above the Pont d'Alma underpass, where the Princess and Dodi died exactly a year earlier at 11.25pm British summertime. At the Statue of Liberty flame, visitors left flowers and wrote messages and poems in many languages.

But it was at Kensington Palace where, once again, most grief was displayed. About 100 people had maintained a candlelit vigil over night. By dawn, their numbers began to swell considerably. The mood outside Diana's old home was quiet, reflective, but, unlike last year, not

so many people stood with tears running down their faces.

Ian Jackman, 34, a hotel manager and a devoted fan who had spoken to Diana over 100 times, flew back to Britain yesterday morning from Paris where he and three friends had spent the anniversary of her last evening with Dodi at the scene of the crash. "It was very emotional," he said.

Diana Millinship, 55, and her friend Jacqueline Bell, 53, had travelled from Ilkerton, near Derby, as they had not come last year. First they took flowers to Harrods, then to Kensington together with a verse written by a colleague at the upholstery factory where they work.

Unlike last year, the Royals were quick to show their appreciation. The Queen's spokeswoman said: "The Queen and the Royal Family, particularly the Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry, would like to thank people for their messages and kind gestures of sympathy at this sad time."

Ginola takes up land mines battle

DAVID GINOLA, the footballer, promised to carry on Diana, Princess of Wales's battle to rid the world of landmines yesterday as he flew into war-ravaged Angola.

As the Frenchman, who plays for Tottenham Hotspur, began a two-day tour of Angola in his new role as envoy for the International Committee of the Red Cross, he said he wanted to highlight the continuing menace posed by the devices.

BY CAHAL MILMO

He told reporters as he arrived in the capital, Luanda: "I've come to carry forward the cause of Princess Diana. We have to keep raising the world's awareness to keep Princess Diana's project alive, so that one day we can end this scourge that is landmines."

Mr Ginola announced last month that he had agreed to become the public face of the Red

Cross campaign against landmines - a position held by the Princess before her death.

Officials for the aid organisation confirmed that Mr Ginola will repeat Princess Diana's symbolic tour of an Angolan minefield during her visit to the country in January last year. He will don the same type of body armour and protective headgear worn by the Princess, which led to some of the most enduring images of her work for

good causes. A Red Cross spokesman, Paolo Dell'Oca, who is co-ordinating the visit, said: "He will be visiting a minefield to see the clearance work, just as the Princess did."

"In doing so he will contribute to our project in much the same way as she did by showing that landmines remain a very real and frightening menace for millions of people around the world." Angola is littered with 11 million mines.

Mr Ginola, who has said that his role as a father motivated him to accept the position, will also visit orthopaedic centres and meet Angolan government ministers before returning to London on Wednesday. The tour of the country will include a football match with two teams of landmine blast survivors.

Mr Ginola, who advertises Renault cars and Dior perfume, has also modelled on the catwalks of Milan.

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In fact, now's the time to switch because from 5th September until 28th November 1998, you can chat to Australia/New Zealand for up to 2 hours on alternate Saturdays for no more than £7.50 for the call - and to the USA/Canada on the other Saturdays for no more than £5 per call.*

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Britain's tiger economy is Worthing

By Andrew Buncombe

ENVY THE lucky traders and business people of Worthing. The south-coast resort, known for its genteel atmosphere, Regency architecture and bracing sea air, is the most profitable town in Britain according to a new survey.

The figures show that businesses in the West Sussex town enjoy an average profit margin of around 21 per cent. Britain's next most profitable town, Warrington, scores just under 20 per cent, while businesses in Dundee, placed third, achieve an average profit rate of almost 19 per cent.

Some people might be surprised by the findings. To many Worthing is the epitome of a quiet, polite and even rather dull seaside town, a far cry from fashionable Brighton, its racier neighbour.

Few would expect it's residents - many of whom are retired - to be so industrious. The thought of tiger economies does not spring instantly to mind.

But findings of the survey, carried out by the global information group Experian, suggest profitable towns share

a number of characteristics. These include excellent communication and transport links, a high number of skilled workers and a well-established manufacturing base.

Many profitable areas are seeing an expansion into high-tech business services. Yesterday, Worthing Borough Council's economic development officer, Tim Preston, said the town fulfilled all these criteria.

"Major companies coming to Worthing have recognised the professionalism and skill of our labour force, coupled with the fact that the number of school-leavers achieving more than five GCSEs with grades C or above is 10 per cent above

the national average," he said. "In addition the town has excellent transport links, including easy access to Gatwick Airport, the Channel ports and the Channel Tunnel."

He said companies investing in the town included the Daewoo Motor Company, SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, and Griffin Credit Services.

The survey, which analysed the profits of around 200,000 companies in England, Wales and Scotland, showed a huge degree of regional variation.

Perhaps as can be expected, the survey found the most profitable businesses are concentrated in the south and south-east of England. Only

seven English locations in the north and 11 in the Midlands made it into the top 50.

Meanwhile Swansea, the most profitable location in Wales, only reached 32nd place in the overall list. Aberdeen, Britain's oil capital and the fifth most profitable location in Scotland, was placed 50 overall.

Not all was well in the south-east, however. Folkestone came in bottom position just behind Ramsgate and Sittingbourne, whose figures were all heavily in the red. This led Kent to be branded as Britain's least profitable county.

Worthing itself is not resting on its laurels. The Council is currently working on a "strategy for the 21st Century" to improve its shopping and retail facilities.

The locals are also keen to counter the view that their town is old and grey. Becky Gibbs, 30, a receptionist at the town's Burlington Hotel, said: "There are hundreds of young people here at weekends and they are all along the seafront in the evenings. There are loads of bars and clubs which are heaving. Young people love it here."



The sleepy image of Worthing is a myth - the seaside town has the highest profit margins

Philip Brown

THE TOP 10

Worthing (20.90)
Warrington (19.57)
Dundee (18.75)
Andover (18.61)
Newbury (16.40)
Newcastle upon Tyne (15.94)
Exeter (15.19)
Perth (14.55)
Evesham (13.55)
Banbury (13.46)

THE BOTTOM 10

Stockton on Tees (-2.33)
Boston (-2.40)
Solihull (-2.44)
Scunthorpe (-2.75)
Brentwood (-3.02)
Wells (-5.24)
Salisbury (-5.81)
Sittingbourne (-9.38)
Ramsgate (-18.89)
Folkestone (-25.13)

Savings rates INCREASED at Nationwide

FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 1998

NEW RATES FOR PERSONAL INVESTORS

CashBuilder		FlexiAccount	
Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£50,000 +	5.70%	4.56%	3.52%
£25,000 - £49,999	5.40%	4.32%	3.28%
£10,000 - £24,999	5.00%	4.00%	2.72%
£5,000 - £9,999	4.80%	3.84%	2.56%
£1 - £4,999	4.60%	3.68%	2.40%
	1.80%	1.44%	
CapitalBuilder		Special Renewal Bond	
£50,000 +	6.70%	8.50%	6.80%
£25,000 - £49,999	6.40%	8.10%	6.40%
£10,000 - £24,999	6.10%	7.90%	6.20%
£1 - £9,999	5.90%	7.70%	6.00%
Monthly Income		InvestDirect	
£50,000 +	6.40%	7.80%	6.24%
£25,000 - £49,999	6.10%	7.50%	6.00%
£10,000 - £24,999	5.80%	7.20%	5.76%
£1 - £9,999	5.60%	7.00%	5.52%
TESSA		Bonus 60*	
£1 - £9,999	8.00%	6.00%	5.04%
TESSA 2		Annual	
£1 - £9,999	8.00%	7.90%	6.32%
		£50,000 - £99,999	7.50%
		£25,000 - £49,999	7.20%
		£10,000 - £24,999	6.90%
		£1 - £9,999	6.60%
Bonus Saver*		Monthly	
£1 +	8.20%	6.30%	5.04%
The Smart Account			
£1 +	8.00%		
Smart 2 Save			
£1 +	8.00%		
Members' Reward Bond			
£1 - £10,000	8.50%		

NEW RATES FOR BUSINESS INVESTORS

Business Investor		Treasury Trust Account	
Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
£50,000 +	5.70%	4.56%	3.52%
£25,000 - £49,999	5.40%	4.32%	3.28%
£10,000 - £24,999	5.00%	4.00%	2.72%
£5,000 - £9,999	4.80%	3.84%	2.56%
£1 - £4,999	4.60%	3.68%	2.40%

NEW RATES FOR ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Account Name	Balance	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.	Account Name	Balance	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
Asset Reserve	£50,000 +	5.70%	4.56%	IncomeBond	£10,000 +	6.60%	5.28%
	£25,000 - £49,999	5.40%	4.32%		£1 - £9,999	6.30%	5.04%
	£10,000 - £24,999	5.00%	4.00%		£25,000 +	5.40%	4.32%
	£5,000 - £9,999	4.80%	3.84%		£10,000 - £24,999	5.00%	4.00%
	£1 - £4,999	4.60%	3.68%		£5,000 - £9,999	4.80%	3.84%
CapitalBuilder 180	£25,000 +	6.15%	5.46%	TaxFree Option 180 Day	£25,000 +	6.40%	5.12%
	£10,000 - £24,999	6.05%	5.32%		£10,000 - £24,999	6.10%	4.88%
	£1 - £9,999	6.10%	4.88%		£1 - £9,999	5.90%	4.72%
	£25,000 +	6.40%	5.12%	TaxFree Option 90 Day	£25,000 +	6.40%	5.12%
	£10,000 - £24,999	6.10%	4.88%		£10,000 - £24,999	6.10%	4.88%
CapitalBuilder 90	£25,000 +	6.10%	4.88%		£1 - £9,999	5.90%	4.72%
	£10,000 - £24,999	6.10%	4.88%		£25,000 +	6.40%	5.12%
	£1 - £9,999	6.10%	4.88%		£10,000 - £24,999	6.10%	4.88%
	£25,000 +	6.40%	5.12%		£1 - £9,999	5.90%	4.72%
	£10,000 - £24,999	6.10%	4.88%	Double Bonus	£1 +	6.60%	5.28%
BonusBuilder	£25,000 +	5.40%	4.32%		£20,000 +	6.40%	5.12%
	£10,000 - £24,999	5.10%	4.08%		£10,000 - £19,999	6.10%	4.88%
	£5,000 - £4,999	4.80%	3.84%		£1 - £9,999	5.90%	4.72%
	£1 - £4,999	4.60%	3.68%		£1 - £500 per month	8.20%	6.56%
		1.80%	1.44%				

*If the account balance on 30th September falls below £25,000 the gross p.a. will be 0.50% net p.a. 0.40% net p.a.

Bonus is calculated daily and paid quarterly on the last day of March, June, September and December.

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Murder victim's girlfriend help police identify Noye

THE GIRLFRIEND of the M25 "road-rage" murder victim was flown to Spain to provide identification leading to the arrest of suspect Kenneth Noye, it has been claimed.

Danielle Cable helped detectives from Kent as they carried out surveillance on 51-year-old Mr Noye, who is wanted in connection with the killing in 1996 of her boyfriend Stephen Cameron, according to Spanish police sources.

In a highly unusual move, Ms Cable, who was with Mr Cameron when he was stabbed to death, spent 12 days with a team of British and Spanish officers during the undercover operation at Barbate and Zahara de Los Atunes on the Andalusian coast.

According to senior officers from the Spanish National Police based at Cadiz, Ms Cable was with a team of four British and two Spanish officers when Mr Noye was spotted at a roadside pizza restaurant in the mountain village of La Muela.

One of the Spanish officers at Cadiz said: "The officers and

BY KIM SENGUPTA
NIGEL BOWDEN
AND LIZ NASH

the female witness pretended they were all tourists. They were all laughing and joking. At one point, the girl was asked if she recognised someone in the restaurant. She saw Noye, gripped an officer's arm and said 'That's him'.

The restaurant customers were secretly videotaped to prove that Mr Noye was not the only foreigner in the restaurant. The police felt this would be necessary for any future court case. The Cadiz officer said: "We couldn't have a situation where Noye was the only non-Spaniard surrounded by loads of Spaniards. This is a recognised procedure in Spain. If this suspect is extradited, a normal sanitised ID parade using other witnesses will be held in Spain."

It emerged yesterday that Mr Noye was using a British passport in the name of Alan Edward Green issued on 3 December 1996. An optician said he had been treating Mr Noye



Danielle Cable: Identified suspect in restaurant

for long-sightedness for the last two years while he had been staying locally - which contradicts various alleged claims that he had been seen in places as diverse as Northern Cyprus and Russia.

Legal moves are under way to extradite Mr Noye as soon as possible, the British Embassy in Madrid said yesterday. Lawyers acting for the Crown Prosecution Service, as well as

diplomats, were doing their utmost to clear the necessary paperwork, said Patrick Owens, an embassy spokesman.

The British Government has 40 days to begin extradition proceedings against Mr Noye, who was arrested on Friday.

Mr Owens said: "We hope this stage will be cleared rapidly. Everything that has happened so far suggests that there will be no delays and that this matter is being taken very seriously by British and Spanish officials. Once the final signatures from the Spanish Cabinet are received on the extradition papers, Kenneth Noye will be rapidly sent back to Britain."

However, according to local lawyers, it could be at least 10 months before extradition takes place. Unless Mr Noye agrees to go back to the UK, it will take at least six months before the case is heard in Madrid at the Audiencia Nacional - the central criminal court. Even if extradition is granted, Mr Noye can appeal to Spain's Supreme Court, which could take up to three months to reach a decision.

IN BRIEF

Previous night's beer-drinking put me over the limit, says MP

A LABOUR MP yesterday told of his "horror" at failing a breath test, and urged drivers to learn from his experience. Jamie Carr, 52, MP for Ipswich, failed a test after being stopped for speeding as he drove his wife, Rosemary, to a friend's house at lunchtime on Saturday. He said he did not drink on the day he was stopped, and blamed the positive test on beer he drank at home the night before.

Giant clock to count in 2000

THE FORTH Rail Bridge landmark in Scotland could be the spot where the nation counts in the new century with a massive clock to rival one in Paris. Railtrack has applied for planning permission for the 70-metre long, seven-metre high digital clock, with white fluorescent tubes. It would be attached to the central span of the bridge and could be in place by October. TV would beam pictures nationwide on midnight 31 December 1999.

Death of boy 'suspicious'

DETECTIVES ARE treating as suspicious the death of a two-year-old boy, Stewart Jackson, also known as Barry McGuire, was dead on arrival at Stirling Royal Infirmary on Saturday night. He was taken there by ambulance after his mother noticed he appeared unwell at his home in Denny, Stirlingshire. Central Scotland Police said they began treating the death as suspicious after a post mortem examination was carried out.

Mother dies after Florida crash

KAY BENNETT, a British mother of three, died in a Florida hospital after being injured in a van crash that killed two British relatives. The family was driving to Orlando for a flight home when the van was hit on the driver's side by a truck driven by Richard Wayne Demilgion, 31, of Lakeland, Florida. Florida Highway Patrol said Mr Demilgion had turned left when the road was not clear.

Help catch killer plea to clubbers

DETECTIVES APPEALED to Wirral clubbers last night at the Ritz nightclub for help in tracing the killer of a computer operator whose battered body was found in nearby Woodside Pond, Bromborough, at about 8.30 Saturday morning. Simon Dawson, 30 and from, Birkenhead drowned after being savagely beaten around the head. The university graduate, a twin, worked for his father's computer firm.

Seamen's fury over Filipino crews

A BALLOT for industrial action over plans to replace British seafarers with cheaper Filipino crews could come a step nearer this week. Rail Maritime and Transport union members at P&O/Nedlloyd are being asked if they want to vote on action in protest at the "disgraceful" plan to replace 330 UK workers on 20 ships with Filipino crews.

'Lazy' Graham refuses to resign as MP

By Andrew Denholm

TOMMY GRAHAM, the troubled Scottish Labour MP, yesterday brushed off calls for his resignation made by a senior constituency party official.

The West Renfrewshire MP rejected accusations that he was "lazy" and had become a "joke". Mr Graham believes it is no coincidence that the claims have been made a week before he is due to appear before the party's National Constitutional Committee to answer disciplinary charges.

"They have continued to try and destabilise myself and put these rumours about me and it is completely untrue. I work hard for my constituency and I'm sure that at the end of the day I will acquit myself well at the hearing."

Mr Graham was responding to accusations by Dan Sharpe, West Renfrewshire constituency chairman, who defied a Labour ban on speaking to the media about the Graham affair to call for him to stand down.

"He's of poor quality. He hasn't attended Parliament regularly and he has never influenced legislation," he said. "Tommy is a joke with the ordinary people in Port Glasgow. The bond of trust between Tommy and the constituency has been broken and is irreparable. Tommy should declare that he will no longer be standing for Parliament in this constituency."



Tommy Graham: 'I work hard for my constituency'

Mr Graham faces allegations that he plotted against fellow Labour MPs. He was also accused of spreading false rumours about the ex-Paisley South MP Gordon McMaster, who committed suicide.

He was suspended in August last year and is alleged to have broken a party rule stating that no Labour member shall "engage in a sustained course of conduct prejudicial to the party."

Mr Graham said he had organised 52 surgeries since the general election, 45 of which he had attended himself with the remainder being conducted by his staff.

"As far as Parliament goes it is only since my suspension that I have not been a regular speaker."

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Makers withdraw measles vaccine

PARENTS concerned about inoculating their children with the controversial triple vaccine MMR will be forced to travel to Europe if they want a single measles vaccination, it was revealed yesterday.

The company that makes the single measles vaccine said it was withdrawing it from sale in Britain because it could not meet demand. From now on parents will only have the option of using MMR, which has been linked by one study, published in the medical journal *The Lancet*, to autism and bowel disease.

Last night Pasteur Merieux MSD, the Paris-based company that makes both the triple and single vaccines, said the single vaccine had been available in Britain on a named-patient basis only.

"That meant it was only available to a very small number of people," said Dr Veronique Maguin, the company's marketing director. "As demand grew we had to make an ethical decision about who the drug should be available to. It was a problem for the company because we could not satisfy everybody."

There has been a huge increase in demand for the single measles injection since the report last February in *The Lancet* on MMR, which also inoculates against mumps and rubella.

While a subsequent report published by the Medical Research Council found no evidence of the link, many parents remain suspicious of the triple vaccine and want to see more research carried out into its possible side-effects. Some believe that receiving all three vaccines at once has a negative effect on the immune system.

Ann Cooté, a founder member of the pressure group Jabs - Justice, Awareness, and Basic Support - said she was as-

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

tounded the company was withdrawing the single vaccine.

"Most manufacturers faced with a demand for something would be rubbing their hands together," she said. "We get a lot of calls from parents who have lost faith in MMR and would prefer to have the option of a single vaccine. We would like to see MMR suspended and more research done."

"In the meantime single vaccines should be available. We are not against vaccines, we are against damage. Parents have a right to make a choice."

Mrs Cooté said many parents were considering travelling to Europe to purchase single jabs.

She said that her own daughter, Rachel, stopped breathing after being injected with the triple vaccine at the age of 18 months. Now aged 11, Rachel still suffers from epileptic fits and has the mental age of a six-year-old. Her daughter's experience led Mrs Cooté to set up Jabs, which has 1,700 members.

The Department of Health accepts the vaccine is not risk-free. "All drugs have side-effects," said a spokeswoman. "We believe that there is more risk from not having the vaccination."

She said the Government recommended having all three vaccinations at once, though she denied there had been any pressure placed on Pasteur Merieux MSD to withdraw the single vaccine.

"There is a risk to other children if a child is waiting to go back to the doctor for another vaccination. It is also more painful for the child," she said. "But the decision to withdraw the single vaccine is the company's alone."

Leading article, Review, page 3



Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare singing along with revellers yesterday at the annual Notting Hill Carnival in London

Paul Hackett/Reuters

Archer on song as Clark snubs carnival

ALAN CLARK used to be game for a laugh. His diaries were packed with gags about Tory colleagues such as Kenneth Clarke, whom he described as a "podgy life-insurance risk".

Even when the joke was on him - when it emerged that he had seduced a judge's wife and two daughters, for instance - he rode it out with brazen charm. Of late, though, there have been worrying signs that the Conservative MP for Kensington and Chelsea is losing his legendary sense of humour.

Last year he sued the *Evening Standard* newspaper over a parody of his diaries that he claimed was indistinguishable from the original. This weekend he refused to send a goodwill message to the Notting Hill Carnival - although it takes place in his own west London constituency.

BY KATHY MARKS AND LINUS GREGORIADIS

Sending a message, to be published in the official programme of the 33rd annual carnival, would hardly have been a controversial move. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was among those who agreed to contribute a few words to the celebrations.

Could it be that Mr Clark, who lives in a 17th-century castle in Kent, regards himself as too grand to press the flesh at such a popular event? Or is it that, having won the safest Tory seat in Britain, he no longer feels the need to mix with the common people?

Stephanie Harwood, a carnival spokeswoman, said yesterday: "I telephoned Alan Clark's office and asked why he wouldn't support such a major event, the largest of its kind in Europe. They wouldn't give a reason."

"The committee feels a bit hurt, considering he's the local

MP. We've never seen him down here, or even in the area. He should get to know his local community, and what better opportunity than when everyone is out enjoying themselves on the streets?"

No one answered the telephone yesterday at Saltwood Castle, Mr Clark's home. But in Notting Hill, there were some crumbs of comfort in the shape of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare who made a visit as part of his campaign to be elected Mayor of London.

Lord Archer, casual in slacks and a cricketer's sweater, toured the carnival offices and

inspected some of the mas (costume) bands. "He's just wandered off down Portobello Road to see Ebony, a steel band," said Ms Harwood. "He's got a tin whistle around his neck."

Police said yesterday afternoon that the carnival had been peaceful so far. On Sunday, there were only 12 arrests, mainly for theft and drug offences, compared with about 50 on the same day last year. An estimated two million people attended over the three days.

It was warm and sunny in much of Britain for the last day of the bank holiday weekend.

Many seaside resorts enjoyed hours of unbroken sunshine, basking in temperatures of up to 24C (75F).

London, the Channel Islands and the Midlands enjoyed the best of the weather, according to the Meteorological Office. Only Northern Ireland, where it rained, and north-east England, which had grey skies, missed out.

The belated good weather did not stop Friday being the busiest day of the year at Heathrow Airport, with 199,000 people passing through. A total of nearly 800,000 travellers used the airport over the weekend.

Trinity keeps top spot in Cambridge league table

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Correspondent

TRINITY, Cambridge University's biggest college and alma mater to Newton and Tenyson, has come top of this year's Tompkins table of examination results.

The table, which is compiled for *The Independent* by Peter Tompkins, a partner in Price WaterhouseCoopers, is used by high-flying sixth formers to help them choose a college and by dons to monitor their colleges' performance.

Trinity, which is top for the second year running, has a convincing lead over its nearest rival, Queens', which just pips Christ's into third place.

Christ's was second last year and the leading college in the previous year.

New Hall, one of the remaining all-women's colleges, is again bottom while Newnham, the other, slips slightly from eighteenth to twentieth.

Mr Tompkins said the table raised questions about whether young women were still attracted to all-female colleges.

Sidney Sussex shows the biggest fall, down from fourth to seventeenth.

The table measures the results by allocating five points for a first, three for an upper second, two for a lower second and

HOW THE COLLEGES RATE

1997 position in parenthesis

1 (1)	Trinity	66.35%
2 (3)	Queens'	64.52%
3 (2)	Christ's	64.50%
4 (8)	Gonville & Caius	64.12%
5 (7)	Emmanuel	63.73%
6 (11)	Clare	63.22%
7 (6)	Trinity Hall	62.64%
8 (10)	St John's	62.54%
9 (5)	Pembroke	62.49%
10 (14)	King's	61.61%
11 (12)	Downing	61.22%
12 (13)	Fitzwilliam	60.83%
13 (15)	Churchill	60.26%
14 (9)	St Catharine's	59.73%
15 (16)	Selwyn	59.64%
16 (20)	Jesus	59.61%
17 (4)	Sidney Sussex	58.60%
18 (23)	Corpus Christi	58.22%
19 (21)	Robinson	58.01%
20 (18)	Newnham	57.93%
21 (22)	Girton	57.35%
22 (17)	Magdalene	57.17%
23 (19)	Peterhouse	57.14%
24 (24)	New Hall	55.67%

one for a third. It shows the percentage of the maximum possible if every candidate had gained a first.

Dr Douglas Kennedy, Trinity's senior tutor, said: "We are absolutely delighted that we are top. This is the result of admitting very able students and

teaching them in the right environment. A large proportion of teaching, particularly in the bigger subjects, is done in college."

But he said, the college was wary about measuring its performance only by tables, which gave merely the overall picture.

"We look more at how individual subjects in the college are faring. Some subjects get a larger proportion of firsts than others."

He said that the college attracted many high-fliers and was working hard to bring in more state school applicants, as were other colleges.

Oxford college league tables are controversial. Seven years ago, Oxford dons tried to stop the Norrington table, their university's equivalent of the Tompkins table, by removing college names from degree lists. They said league tables gave a misleading impression of colleges.

Students immediately started to compile unofficial tables and this year Oxford admitted defeat and reinstated the college names. Merton came top of the Norrington table.

Mr Tompkins, who was at Trinity, said he did not want to encourage sixth formers to use his table to decide where to apply. "There is a danger that it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

However, he thought that colleges, which were increasingly interested in marketing themselves, found it useful. "If things are going badly they may be saying they have to put more effort into attracting good pupils."

VIAGRA CORNER

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE

VIAGRA USERS just can't keep quiet about their new-found potency. Hundreds of happy and satisfied customers have joined a new Internet site to share their experiences and pass on user-friendly tips to novices.

The Viagra Talk site, which is moderated by Dr Brian McDonough to root out any messages of questionable taste, carries long lists of comments and advice about the drug and

its effects. According to several contributors it is, for instance, best taken on an empty stomach rather than after a meal. "I find that when taken after a large meal it takes two to three hours for the pill to work and it only lasts six to seven hours. When I take it on an empty stomach it lasts about 10 hours," says one user.

Another worries: "While my wife enjoys my new-found virility, she wonders if we can both

keep up the pace of our youth." One man found that he could save money by cutting the tablet in half. "The cost for 25, 50 and 100mg tablets is the same per tablet for all three. Why pay 50p for a 50mg tablet when it costs only half that amount. A third of a tablet works great for me."

Then of course, there is the odd failure: "Tried 50mg the first time and no luck. Tried 100mg the second and again no



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ROGER DOBSON

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Dobson offers 'family friendly' shifts to soothe angry nurses

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

HOSPITALS ARE to be told to make themselves more "family friendly" for nurses in a push by Frank Dobson to head off anger over the staging of their pay award.

Speaking to *The Independent*, the Health Secretary said he would be issuing "more trenchant advice" to NHS managers about the need for better treatment of nurses with more flexible working hours to fit their lifestyles.

Mr Dobson has also written to all hospitals to ensure that they can avoid a winter crisis, which could wreck his promise to reduce waiting lists.

He has told NHS staff to ensure that local arrangements can cope with emergency pressures so that waiting list targets are achieved. His letter follows a study of NHS emergency services, showing that pressure on emergency units last winter increased in spite of the mild weather, and a harsh winter this time could see waiting lists start rising again.

Christopher Bunch, chairman of the emergency services action committee, which carried out the review, said: "Staff have coped magnificently under increasing pressure but at some cost. Stress levels are high throughout and there are staff shortages and recruitment difficulties in several areas."

Mr Dobson's determination to help nurses work more flexible hours follows a personal experience. "I can remember some years ago that three quarters of the nurses at University College Hospital were agency nurses. When I inquired, the explanation was that the agency nurses can work what hours they like, but the ones on the NHS payroll had to work standard hours. It suited the agency nurses but it struck me that if you can order your rosters for agency nurses, you can organise them for your NHS staff."

Offering nurses more flexible working hours could allow more to come back into the pro-



Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, hopes that more flexible working hours for nurses will help cut hospital waiting lists and keep him in a job

Tom Pilston

fession after having children. "It's clear, on present levels of pay and terms and conditions, there is difficulty in recruiting and retaining nurses."

Mr Dobson also has drawn up, with the Royal College of Nursing, new guidelines for hospitals to stop nurses and doctors being assaulted by disturbed or drunken patients.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, gave a clear signal that he will avoid staging next year's pay award to nurses.

Pay is one of the key issues that is blamed for poor re-

ruitment and retention in the NHS. The nurses' pay review body recommended an increase of 3.8 per cent this year costing £351 million extra. But as it did with all public sector groups, the Cabinet reduced the increase to 2 per cent from 1 April with the rest being paid from 1 December.

The Government is planning to deliver its submission to the pay review bodies later this month and the Prime Minister has already met them to reassure the review bodies they still have independence in spite of the change to their

terms of reference to include "affordability" for the first time.

The nurses pay review has been told to report to Mr Dobson and Downing Street, and the Treasury is hoping that its recommendations will be kept closer to the 2.5 per cent inflation target.

The Health Secretary is also consulting the NHS groups on a long-term plan to introduce a single independent pay review body for the whole of the health service, to reduce disparities between the auxiliary nurses and porters not covered by pay review bodies and, for example,

GPs, who this year were awarded 5.2 per cent more in two stages.

But new Labour's other key health pledge, to cut waiting lists by 100,000, seems like a mirage: the more people are treated, the more come on to the list. Some Labour sources said it was the fault of the copywriters when they were producing the posters for the election: they did not think a commitment to "treat 100,000 more patients" was sharp enough.

Mr Dobson knows he is saddled with it, and if he does not deliver on the first stage by next

May, he will be out of a job. He remains confident that the aim of getting down waiting lists to the level inherited from the Tories over the next eight months will be met, barring accidents this winter.

He is so confident that the figures will continue to go down that he is preparing to remove his collection of paintings from his office wall - including a portrait of Oliver Cromwell inherited from Stephen Dorrell, his Tory predecessor - and replace them with graphs of the waiting lists for NHS treatment.

ANAESTHETISTS WHO play music to their patients during operations have discovered that the sound substantially reduces the amounts of sedatives and pain-killers needed. When patients listened to their own choice of music through headphones, the use of pain-killing analgesics was almost halved, and the level of sedative also dropped.

All the patients were operated on under local or regional anaesthetic and were therefore awake during the operation.

The huge increase in hospital day surgery in Britain means that more such operations are being carried out. One of the problems is that conscious patients can become overanxious as the surgeons operate and discuss surgical techniques and disease.

"When these patients undergo regional or local anaesthetic we can block the pain stimulus but we are still left with anxiety associated with being in the operating theatre," says Dr Zeev Kain, professor of anaesthesiology at Yale University. "Music is widely used to help people relax and divert attention from unpleasant things, so we set out to show that music chosen by a patient helps provide a familiar environment and will distract their attention."

In the research, reported in the current issue of the medical journal *Anaesthesiology*, patients were asked to bring with them a CD of their favourite music to enjoy. The amount of drugs they needed during the operation was then compared with another group of patients who had no music. Doctors found a 44 per cent reduction in requirement for an analgesic and a five-fold drop in demand for sedatives.

Just how the music works in reducing the perception of pain is not clear, but one theory is that the stimulus from the music somehow competes for the brain's attention with the pain signals and, for some of the time, wins.

Musical therapy calms patients

BY ROGER DOBSON

ANAESTHETISTS WHO play music to their patients during operations have discovered that the sound substantially reduces the amounts of sedatives and pain-killers needed.

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Woodward speaks out against trials

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Edinburgh TV Festival: Former au pair describes how people behaving like paparazzi have robbed her of privacy



In court Louise Woodward with the two hairstyles that, as seen on television, led the public to condemn her

Woodward speaks out against TV trials

LOUISE WOODWARD spoke out against the use of television cameras in courtrooms yesterday, despite the part they played in starting the campaign that fought for her early release from jail.

The British au pair complained that the televising of her trial last year had given her unwanted celebrity and had led to the trivialising of her trial for the murder of baby Matthew Eappen.

Speaking at the Edinburgh Television Festival, Ms Woodward said: "People are not able to distinguish between notoriety and celebrity. I never wanted to be in this position. I don't want to be a minor celebrity - I am not famous for anything good and people ask me to sign household cups."

"I am trying to be a normal 20-year-old and people won't let me do that."

The former au pair complained that every day she gets questions from the media about where she is going to university,

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

ly, when she is getting married or if she plans to have children.

"When I was on holiday, paparazzi-style photographs of me on the beach were taken by members of the public and sold to the press." She added: "I have only ever signed one autograph because the woman wouldn't let me out of the restaurant and I was embarrassed. When I can, I say no. I just hope my face will fade in people's memories."

She said that her notoriety all stemmed from the televising of her trial: "I was never asked if I wanted cameras in the courtroom... I would have said no. It is hard enough to stand handcuffed in the dock without a camera trying to get a clear shot of my hands."

She said because of the cameras her behaviour in the courtroom, rather than the evidence, became the focus of news reports. Her giggle was given



Louise Woodward and her lawyer, Barry Scheck, in Edinburgh yesterday where she said she did not enjoy being a 'celebrity' Jon Savage

great significance and because she couldn't get a haircut or use make-up in prison she was dubbed the "Nanny from Hell".

When she changed her hairstyle, she said she was accused of trying to look "sweet and innocent". But she did not deny that the cameras may have contributed

to her release after her manslaughter conviction, when she was given a sentence already covered by the time she had served.

"I couldn't say what influenced the judge," she said. "I hope he based his decision on law, not on public opinion. Do

we really want the public to be policing the courts? Should we just replace 12 people as a jury with an opinion poll on [the television chat show with] Richard and Judy?"

She added: "Television turns a courtroom into a soap opera, turns it into entertainment, but

a courtroom is a serious place dealing with people's lives."

Ms Woodward was accompanied at the session by her lawyer Barry Scheck, who argued that the televising of her trial had made things more difficult for the defence lawyers. He claimed that it reduced

the case to a debate about child-care, and the implication was that Louise Woodward had been given too much responsibility and had snapped under the pressure. He said the trial jury was not sequestered, and he assumed they had been watching the television coverage.

30 more real life soaps in pipeline

BY PAUL MCCANN

ITV IS PLANNING to make another 30 documentary soap operas this year, it was revealed yesterday as a session at the Edinburgh Television Festival cast light on how more and more ordinary people are having their lives changed by television celebrity.

A leading documentary soap maker admitted that directors "cast" their fly-on-the-wall programmes with people who have star quality.

The seminar was attended by Jeremy Spake, the Aeroflot attendant made famous by the BBC's *Airport* series, and Trade Mostue of the *Vets In Practice* series. Delegates heard how these stars of real-life television had gone on to pursue new careers after their brush with fame.

The seminar was also supposed to have heard from Emma Bundy, a counter girl from the series *Lakesiders*, but she could not attend because she is currently recording a single for EMI Records.

Mr Spake, who has now appeared in two series of *Airport* still works for Aeroflot, but he has become such a hit in the show that the BBC commissioned him to write a book.

Joe Hoolihan, maker of *Airline*, the best-watched series so far, said that the programmes are based more on character than on the situations film crews find. "It is commonly accepted that we use the phrase 'casting'. We are looking for people who have a way of expressing themselves well and explaining things on camera."

The session was attended by Keith Cooper, the former head of press at the Royal Opera House, made famous for his treatment of staff in *The House*.

He left his job earlier this year and blames the programme: "I was known as Vlad the Impaler after the series. The cameras made me look like a villain and in 'seem without credibility and character. That has remained with me both personally and professionally."

Schizophrenia gene close to discovery, say scientists

SCIENTISTS ARE close to discovering a gene that significantly increases the risk of a person developing schizophrenia, one of the most common and debilitating mental illnesses.

The results of a 15-year study, involving more than a hundred families and a thousand subjects, has provided researchers with the first definitive evidence that a predisposition to schizophrenia resides on a region of human chromosome 13.

Dr Ann Pulver, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, said: "Finding the actual gene for schizophrenia susceptibility will be like finding a particular house in a large city."

"But we've found the city. It's a first step, and an exceedingly important one."

The study, published in this

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

month's issue of the journal *Nature Genetics*, is the first to provide a genetic "address" for a schizophrenia gene with an internationally accepted degree of statistical reliability.

It has been known for many years that schizophrenia tends to run in families.

Studies of identical twins have shown that if one twin develops the illness, the other has a 46 per cent chance of also becoming a sufferer, which is far higher than the 1 per cent rate for the general population.

"It's not the case that 'you have the gene, you have the disease'. The genetic effect is one of susceptibility to schizophrenia," Dr Pulver said. It is likely that other genes, as well

as the influence of the environment or upbringing, also influence the risk of becoming ill, she said.

The scientists analysed the blood samples of 54 schizophrenia patients and samples from members of their families.

By scanning the DNA of the families, the scientists identified a region of chromosome 13 as being implicated in the disease, which was confirmed by a second study of 51 other families with a history of the illness.

Other studies have revealed weak links between schizophrenia and other human chromosomes but this study is the strongest association yet, with the probability of the connection being due to chance alone put at about 2 in 100,000, Dr Pulver said. Dr Karen Schwartz,

a member of the research team, said that if the gene on chromosome 13 is found it could revolutionise the understanding of schizophrenia because scientists should be able to understand the precise nature of any chemical imbalance in the brain of patients.

"It will help us to get a more fundamental understanding of the illness. Right now, we just don't understand schizophrenia," she said.

Schizophrenia is a serious problem in Britain, with the illness affecting 1 per cent of the population. If left untreated, people with schizophrenia experience delusions, hallucinations, incoherent speech and highly disorganised behaviour, which prevents sufferers holding down jobs or looking after themselves.

Rapist targeting rail travellers

A RAPIST has been targeting women at railway stations as they return from work, police revealed yesterday.

The police have so far linked two sexual assaults, but they are expected to appeal to other victims to come forward at a press conference later today.

The two attacks - one in London, the other in Essex - happened six years apart, but an inquiry, known as Operation Calchment, has established "significant similarities which indicate the same man is responsible", police said.

In the most recent assault in March, a 36-year-old woman on her way home from work was attacked and raped near Barking railway station in south-east London. In the other assault at Brentwood, Essex, in February 1992, a 25-year-old

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

woman was grabbed as she walked to her car and forced to drive to a dimly-lit area where she was raped.

At the time, that incident was linked to a number of sexual assaults including the rape a month earlier of a 22-year-old who was attacked at a station near Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Essex Police said yesterday that they had set up a major investigation with British Transport Police to hunt the attacker.

There has been heightened concern about safety on and around the railways this year following an upsurge in sexual assaults. Two teenagers travelling between London and the South Coast were attacked in separate incidents in January.

Rembrandt 'fake' probably genuine

A PAINTING branded as bogus and consigned to the basement of Ireland's National Art Gallery more than 25 years ago is set to be proved a genuine Rembrandt after all.

The work, *Head of an Old Man*, has been owned by the Dublin gallery since 1871.

It was thought to be a Rembrandt until Dutch experts declared it was a 19th-century fake with a false signature.

That judgement was queried more recently by Andrew O'Connor, the gallery's senior conservator. And he has now established the painting dates back to about 1650, and is consistent with Rembrandt's style.

Mr O'Connor said: "I always liked the work and my faith in it wavered in the face of all the experts. But I always felt it deserved re-assessment, and now

BY CHRIS PARKIN

I have been able to do that.

"Cleaning tests and examination of the original paint pretty well convinced me. I also showed it to the head of the Rembrandt Research Project in Amsterdam, who endorsed my feeling."

"I would be hoping for confirmation within the next year, but these things always take a long time."

Mr O'Connor was reluctant to put a price on the painting, if it is finally declared a Rembrandt. "For us, paintings are not related to commercial value, and this one is certainly not for sale," he said.

The last old master confirmed at the gallery, Caravaggio's *The Taking of Christ*, was valued at £26 million.

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Duma ignores warning of chaos

RUSSIA'S NIGHTMARE deepened last night when parliament rejected Boris Yeltsin's nominee for prime minister - Viktor Chernomyrdin - adding political limbo to economic meltdown. The country is without a government little more than a week after the President threw out the last one, scapegoats to a collapsing rouble and a nation's inability to pay its debts.

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

The State Duma overwhelmingly rejected Mr Chernomyrdin's candidacy by 253 to 94 votes - 132 short of what he needed. In doing so, parliament made clear that it associates the wealthy former gas baron and prime minister from 1992 to March this year with a period of government marred by corruption, a bungled privatisation programme, deepening poverty, the Chechen war and the growth of a manipulative oligarchical class.

The Kremlin did its best to frighten them into line. "If the chaos lasts for another couple of weeks, then there will be net-

her Communists, nor any of us left... I have in mind a popular uprising," said Alexander Kotenkov, Mr Yeltsin's parliamentary representative. So did Mr Chernomyrdin himself. Russia was on the verge of a political and economic breakdown, he warned, in a speech to the chamber. Time was running out. Fault lay with the "childish" government of his 36-year-old predecessor, Sergei Kiriyenko; he, Viktor Chernomyrdin, would sort out wage and pension arrears, the taxes and the crumbling banks.

His defeat came after the unravelling of a power-sharing deal struck after intense weekend talks between the Kremlin, the parliamentary leadership, and Mr Chernomyrdin, which would - historically - have transferred some of Mr Yeltsin's powers to the legislature. There will now be another round of haggling, led by the Communists, who have 137 of the 228 votes that the prime minister needs to be confirmed. Yesterday, a senior hardline party official said it wanted 10 ministers in the cabinet, and Mr

Yeltsin's resignation - an outcome that would appeal the West, and its creditors in the International Monetary Fund, who have been warning that Moscow's \$23bn (£14bn) rescue package will be in jeopardy if it tries to introduce regressive, Soviet-era economic remedies. The leader of the Yabloko liberal faction, Grigory Yavlinsky, described the situation as "very very unstable". "Power is paralysed. The government cannot do anything. This is the worst case that anyone can imagine."

Mr Chernomyrdin's rejection was so decisive that it may cause the Kremlin to contemplate choosing another candidate. The Communists have suggested several, including the mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, and the moderate Duma speaker, Gennady Seleznyov. Last night, Mr Yeltsin's aides made clear the President is standing by his man, and will nominate him again.

If Mr Chernomyrdin is rejected twice more by the Duma, the President must dissolve parliament and call an early election. An end-game is underway. The question is whether Mr Yeltsin, who has shelved a previous legislature in order to get his way, will make more concessions to get a new government in place. Or will he hold out, gambling on the Duma's reluctance to bring about its own dissolution? Beneath everything lurks the fear that Mr Yeltsin will impose a state of emergency, closing the Duma indefinitely. He seems too isolated to take that risky path. But nothing here is impossible.

Anne McElvay
Review, page 5

Stalin's heirs have Kremlin at their mercy

THE DANGER of the hardening conflict between Boris Yeltsin and Russia's parliament is that it will escalate to a stage where it is impossible for either side to back down, creating a long deadlock and worsening economic mayhem.

The State Duma, or lower house, yesterday refused to confirm Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister after the collapse of a power-sharing deal in which President Yeltsin would hand some powers to parliament.

Leading the assault were the Communists, the largest party in parliament, with 138 seats, led by Gennady Zyuganov. Although the Communists routinely clash with the Kremlin, the party has a record of caving in. This time, however, that may be difficult. The severity of Russia's crisis and Mr Yeltsin's intense unpopularity is increasing pressure on the Communist leadership to harden their stance.

The odds are that Mr Zyuganov will haggle further but settle in the end. But if the party ultimately votes for Mr Chernomyrdin - there are two more ballots to go - it risks alienating the electorate.

Mr Zyuganov also has internal problems. He heads a combustible coalition of "red-brown" (Communist-nationalist) political forces that contain hard-line elements. Some want to extract more concessions; others are adamantly opposed to dialogue with the Kremlin.

The pressure from the radical wings, both right and left, of his so-called National Patriotic Union is reaching a new pitch. If he fails to respond, his position as leader - already suspect - would become more precarious.

Yesterday, the Communists were demanding 10 ministries (including economics and the powerful interior ministry, which controls the police), and

BY PHIL REEVES

the resignation of Mr Yeltsin once a government is formed. Although isolated and weak, a cornered Mr Yeltsin is capable of dissolving parliament. This would also happen automatically if the Duma throws out Mr Chernomyrdin's nomination three times.

The crisis threatens to destroy a balancing act that Mr Zyuganov, 52, has been engaged in since he took over the party leadership in 1993, turning the ruins of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union into the largest political entity in Russia with 500,000 members.

At his back stands an assorted army of liberal democrats, left-wing nationalists, Slavophile patriots, Marxist-Leninist revivalists, Stalinists, and more. Splits abound over ideology, and between the Communist elite in the Duma, the party apparatus, the regional leaders and the rank and file.

Although it has a rump of elderly and rural support (average age, 52) its base has been widening. Only a fifth are blue-collar workers; more than half of its support is estimated to be in the engineering, technical, culture, science, education, medicine and the military.

Mr Zyuganov, podgy in appearance and plodding in manner, glides back and forth between the ideological spectrum. He is the author of *A Word to the People*, the manifesto of the men behind the failed hardline coup against Mikhail Gorbachev in 1991. Like many in the Communist camp, he remains silent about Stalin's crimes but praises the dictator's victory over Hitler and industrial achievements. Yet he has also espoused a policy of "constructive opposition", and has quietly worked in parliament with Mr Chernomyrdin in the past.



An elderly Russian woman Communist holds a portrait of Josef Stalin as she takes part in a march through Moscow alongside a military parade commemorating triumphs of the Armed Forces

A world leader in need of luck

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

THREE DAYS before leaving for Moscow, President Bill Clinton spoke at a service to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Martin Luther King's great civil rights march on Washington. He steered clear of co-opting King's celebrated "I have a dream..." speech on the eve of his long-planned trip to Russia and Ireland.

"I have a nightmare..." would have been nearer the mark. Put yourself just once in the President's place as Air Force One left Andrews Air Force base outside Washington yesterday and consider the risks. Suppose you are more than 10 hours into your 12-hour flight to Moscow and have just crossed into Russian airspace. The VIP corridor is cleared for your approach to the capital. You are handed an urgent message. Unconfirmed reports from Moscow say that Boris Yeltsin has just resigned. You do not know whether he has been forcibly removed, genuinely changed his mind since Friday or suffered a heart attack.

Minutes later, there is a new message, this time from the acting Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, passed on by the State Department in Washington: "I am looking forward to receiving you in Moscow. The programme for your visit remains substantially in place."

Another 10 minutes and a new message, this one from the Treasury via the White House: Russia has announced it is defaulting on all its international obligations: the interests of the Russian people are paramount. You are now well into Russian airspace. You have no certainty about who is in charge at your destination. Your options are limited. You can believe Mr Chernomyrdin's reassurance and proceed with your visit, hoping it is he, or the Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, who meets you at the airport and not some Communist you have never heard of or worse still, some uniformed strongman who claims to be in control. Maybe you could change the venue: invite Mr Chernomyrdin to Helsinki. On second thoughts, he has a country to run.

You emerge from Air Force One for the first time in your presidency uncertain about what awaits.

How Ivan the Typical survives

RUSSIANS WHO have been elbowing each other in queues to buy dollars or consumer durables are the second-class passengers on the ship that has hit the economic iceberg. (First-class ticket holders long ago monopolised the lifeboats and sailed away.)

But down in the hold are millions more, so lowly paid they have never saved a kopeck or worse, survived for months without wages at all. Only the Siberian miners have mutinied. The rest have shown a calm that is really the resignation of the doomed. It is a miracle they are still alive. How have they kept their heads above water?

In the week that the Kremlin welcomed back Viktor Chernomyrdin, a fat cat thanks to his links with the gas monopoly Gazprom, I visited another man who has also made his career in the gas industry. But Ivan Andreyev is a very thin cat indeed.

Mr Andreyev works at a gas station in Voskresensk, in Moscow region. The station,

controlled by the Ministry of Fuel and Energy rather than Gazprom, sells propane to drivers who economise by running their cars on gas, as well as canisters to householders who cannot get mains gas.

The stream of customers at the station testifies to the demand for this service. Nevertheless, Mr Andreyev last received a wage packet in October 1996. If he is ever paid, his money will have lost nearly half its value because of the rouble slide. How does he get by? "There are many inexplicable things that are only possible in Russia because this is the 'strana chudes' (Wonderland)," he said.

Mr Andreyev, who has just turned 60, should be retired but goes on working because he and his wife, Valentina, cannot make ends meet on their joint state pension of 600 roubles (now worth about \$50). In any case, they receive their pensions irregularly and have been kept waiting for the money again this summer.

Some old people in their po-

STREET LIFE SAMOTECHNY LANE



A miner protests in Red Square

sition might be able to rely on their children. But the Andreyevs' son, Andrei, is disabled. "His disability allowance of 200 roubles comes from the same state pension fund and his payments have been sporadic too," said Mr Andreyev. And so the old man continues to work at the gas station in the hope that his wages will be paid. "When they first stopped

paying us, I thought it was a temporary problem and accepted it. But things just got worse."

Luckily he and his wife do have a roof of their own over their heads. Russians in the greatest difficulty these days are those on low incomes who are also obliged to rent their accommodation. But Mr Andreyev was able to buy a small house when he moved south from Norilsk in the Arctic, where he spent most of his working life in a nickel plant. "I don't have to pay rent, just the utility bills. I'm up to date with my gas bills," he said proudly.

The house has a garden in which he and his family grow fruit and vegetables. Like survivors of a nuclear war, they go into the forests to pick berries and mushrooms. The only food items they have to buy are bread, milk, tea and salt. "That's our salvation. If we had to shop for food, I do not know what we would do."

The same techniques that helped Russians survive in Soviet times, when the shops had

nothing to sell, still apply now when it is pockets that are empty. As well as gardening, which is a rural option, or collecting empty bottles and claiming the money back, a method of the urban poor, work "na levo" (on the side) is crucial.

"See that tanker over there?" said Mr Andreyev. "We sell gas from that directly to the customer and make a few roubles for ourselves. Some of the younger lads also fix cars here in working hours. You can't blame them. They've got to live."

Mr Andreyev, who was over a Communist, believed briefly in the possibility of democracy in Russia but has now lost hope. He sees no difference in the corrupt politicians who come and go and, although he respects the miners, sees no point in protesting as they have done, because nobody in power listens. He takes joy in things that are beyond politics. "I've got my family, two fine grandsons, thank God. They are my reason for living."

HELEN WOMACK

DAVID AARONOVITCH

'At one and the same time the Scots resented the South and craved its bounty and opportunities. They still do'

— THE TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3 —

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Flooding awakens Chinese protest

PEKING'S ENVIRONMENTAL awakening may seem rather late in the day to a Yangtze basin farmer whose home has yet again been washed away by annual floods. But China's government is finally admitting that decades of ecological mismanagement has played a large part in the annual flood disasters. In the first indication that some good may come from this summer's inundation, a complete logging ban will go into effect today in Sichuan province in a belated effort to halt soil erosion in the upper reaches of the Yangtze, one of the main tributary factors to flooding.

All Sichuan's timber markets are supposed to close from today, and about 45,000 loggers will lose their jobs, in theory being redeployed to plant new saplings. In fact, many of them have not had much work to do recently. According to Sichuan officials, half the province's main timber companies had already run out of trees to cut down by the end of last year. Tree cover in the upper reaches of the Yangtze was once as high as 85 per cent, but by 1986 had fallen to 10 per cent. In the 53 counties in the middle of Sichuan where several Yangtze tributaries run, the cover has mostly been reduced to below 3 per cent, according to figures published in China.

Deforestation has a direct impact on flooding because, devoid of trees to soak up the water, loose soil is washed away by rainwater into rivers and reservoirs. These become clogged, and their water storage capacity reduced, while the level of the riverbed itself gradually rises. The situation is exacerbated by the draining of lakes, and encroachment on lakes in the middle reaches of the Yangtze to create agricultural land. In cen-

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

tral Hubei province, the number of lakes fell from 1,066 in the 1950s to 325 today, according to Chinese figures. This removes nature's ability to absorb flood waters.

Yet there are more hopeful signs that this year's floods have united the environmentally concerned from across the political spectrum. The environment is one issue on which China's fledgling non-governmental organisations, such as Friends of Nature, have managed to mobilise, and their lobbying power is probably strengthened by the floods.

A meeting at the end of last month by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress heard forthright criticism of environmental neglect. A committee member, Luo Dian, said the floods "were caused by widespread deforestation, resulting in serious soil erosion, and inadequate water conservancy projects". Yao Zhengyan, a former vice-minister for water resources, warned of more serious floods in the future and called on the central government to step up efforts to protect the environment. Such criticism is unusual in China.

China's dissident community is also trying to make its voice heard on the environment. The largest dissident petition since the pro-democracy movement of 1989, with 309 signatures from 19 provinces, has emerged. "For so many years, by blindly following the concept that 'man can conquer nature', we have built up vast, evil debts to the Yangtze River," said the petition. "We are now swallowing the bitter fruit of nature's revenge."



Angolan soldiers escorting a prisoner at Matadi airport. Matadi has been retaken by Congolese forces with Angolan help

Reuters

Congo rebels prepare for long haul in war to topple Kabila

FROM THE capital, Kinshasa, government victory may seem at hand. But from rebel-held eastern Congo, insurgents plotting their next move say they are on their side.

"The war is going on," said Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, a rebel leader, yesterday.

Mr Wamba insisted the government forces would have been routed if it were not for the Angolans and Zimbabweans sent in to fight alongside those of President Laurent Kabila. "But they cannot stay long. And we're going to continue fighting no matter what," he said.

On Sunday, the rebels suffered a major defeat in the month-old campaign to topple

BY HRVOJE HRANJSKI

Mr Kabila when they pulled out of Matadi, 350 kilometres southwest of Kinshasa - the only remaining air base in western Congo under their control.

Mr Wamba said the rebel force in western Congo - believed to number between 6,000 and 9,000 troops - had to withdraw to avoid being cut in half by Angolan troops.

The result will be a change in tactics: the rebels will split into smaller, mobile groups ready to strike Kinshasa at times, infiltrate the city and lie low until the departure of Mr Kabila's allies, he said.

"It's a matter of what kind of

war," said the former Harvard political economy lecturer. "It is my understanding that, now, we are conducting the guerrilla-type war."

"Nobody can rule effectively only with foreign support," he said. "Zimbabwe cannot stay for a long time. Angola may not stay for longer either. They have too many fronts open against them: they have to be in Congo-Brazzaville, they have to deal with (separatists) in Cabinda, they have to deal with Congo-Kinshasa, and they are only 11 million people."

Since the rebels - a coalition of ethnic Tutsis, exiled politicians and disenchanted members of Mr Kabila's army -

look up arms, they have seized eastern Congo and closed in on Kinshasa from the Atlantic.

But the intervention of Angola and Zimbabwe appeared to have saved Mr Kabila - at least for now. The result could be a long and exhausting war.

"We are trying to tell our people that this may not be a few weeks' affair. It could be months, it could be years. The more people get that sense that this is a worthwhile struggle, the people will continue struggling," he said.

The rebels still control a string of towns in eastern Congo, including the third-largest city, Kisangani, from where supplies can be ferried

on the Congo River to rebels around Kinshasa.

The rebels accuse Mr Kabila of power-grabbing and nepotism. "Fundamentally, this is a problem of how power is being misused," Mr Wamba said. "We need responsible leadership if we want to have stability in Congo and regionally."

Mr Kabila accuses Rwanda and Uganda of sponsoring the rebellion and invading the country.

But the rebel commander, Jean-Pierre Ondekane, said yesterday that the countries backing the rebels had yet to intervene in the war. He warned that they would if the war continued.

Algiers market bomb carnage

BY ZOHIRA BENSMIRA
in Algiers

AT LEAST 10 people were killed in Algiers yesterday when a home-made bomb exploded at an open-air market in the city centre.

A doctor and relief worker at the scene said the number of casualties was climbing. "So far we have counted 19 dead and 47 injured. But many of the wounded are in critical condition and some might not survive," the doctor said.

A worker at a television repair shop in the market said: "One of the vendors discovered the bomb in a bag, he tried to move it away with his feet, but it exploded. Most of the dead are vendors, like the poor man, or passers-by."

There was no immediate word on who might be responsible for the attack, but it follows a series of blasts blamed by the authorities on Muslim rebels in which dozens have been killed. The Arabic daily *El Khabar* said one person was killed and two hurt when a bomb exploded on Sunday in Sidi Ali Shrif, 300 miles west of Algiers. The newspaper also reported that security forces shot dead two Islamists in Constantine, 220 miles east of the capital.

On Saturday, police in Hachad hamlet, about 40 miles south-west of Algiers, defused two bombs near where mourners had been gathering for the funeral of five civilians killed by presumed Muslim rebels a day earlier. Security sources said Islamists rebels cut the throats of 10 people in nearby Ain Defia on Saturday in a new wave of violence to hit the province.

On 20 August, at least 14 people were killed and 36 wounded by a bomb at an open-air market in a neighbouring village, and a week earlier seven people, including six children were killed in a bomb attack on a passenger train.

Western estimates put the death toll at 65,000 from continuing violence since the government cancelled an election in 1992, which the Islamists were poised to win.

How Burma's resistance cheated the secret police

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Rangoon

RUNNING OR, more accurately, fleeing, down a road leading off an intersection close to Rangoon University, I wondered, for a moment, just a moment, what would happen if I stopped and waited to see what the hater-wielding riot police would do to a foreigner who was clearly not part of the protest they were breaking up.

Looks of genuine terror on the faces of those around me quickly pushed this idea out of my mind. The Burmese military and police are not known for their subtlety.

I had been observing a student demonstration, the first in over two years. It was a small affair organised in great secrecy. I knew of its existence only because I happened to be in the area and a woman in a car called out that students were gathering near by.

Anyone contemplating open protest in Burma faces considerable risks. Even the woman in the car had she been spied by the many informers out on the streets, could have been thrown into jail for talking to me.

Shortly after this demonstration Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) opposition movement, told me: "If you do something that you're not frightened by I'm not sure it means that much but if you take part in a protest when you are frightened, that really is something."

"Fear and courage walk side by side," she added. "What we have to overcome is the fear." The NLD won an overwhelming parliamentary victory in 1990 but was not allowed to take its seats.

Only a fool would not sense the fear in Burma today. Yet there certainly is courage. Every single person at this demonstration faced the prospect of jail in horrendous



Aung San Suu Kyi: Trying to overcome the fear

conditions for many years. As I ran down the road three students surrounded me and hustled me into an alley, fearing that I was too conspicuous. I urged them to leave me but they insisted that I take shelter in a nearby house where I was admitted without question.

By the time I left the house, plunging into darkened alleys, we had a tall. The students guiding me out still refused to leave me alone. The military intelligence officer trailing us made little attempt to conceal his presence and hung around until I disappeared in a taxi. The students left in another direction. I very much hope they are all right.

When I went to interview Ms Suu Kyi, I managed to attract even more attention.

Not so long ago it was possible to go to her house in University Avenue where a cluster of goons surrounded the entrance, taking pictures of everyone going in and out. Now

the part of the street where she lives is sealed off to foreigners, except diplomats. Her phone has been disconnected. To meet her, elaborate preparations have to be made through intermediaries.

It was finally decided to arrange a meeting at the house of Bohmu Aung, one of the country's national heroes, a comrade-in-arms of Ms Suu Kyi's father, Aung San. The central player in Burma's struggle for independence.

Bohmu Aung is relatively untouchable. However, this did not stop the ubiquitous military intelligence officers swarming round his house with cameras and putting a tail on foreigners as they left the premises.

First we left on foot, with an officer close behind. Then we jumped in a taxi. A large black car instantly materialised to follow us. We headed for a hotel, leapt out of the taxi and into one of the lifts. The man trailing us just missed the lift. We fled down the fire exit.

The foreign media, usually described as "destructionists" by the government propaganda machine, are an obsession with the regime.

The small band of mainly elderly Burmese journalists who work for foreign news agencies sensibly keep away from the visiting overseas media and stick to reporting stories that will not land them in jail.

Sending out stories and film involves elaborate circumnavigation because all phone lines are tapped, all fax machines have to be registered and their output is carefully monitored. The new Burmese Internet service is also subject to considerable surveillance.

Yet news seeps out, foreign radio stations are avidly listened to, word of mouth on the streets conveys information about protest activity.

The regime cannot seal every crack in the information network, even though it is doing its very best.

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BUSINESS

Hong Kong fall sets scene for turmoil in markets

BRIEFING

The Pharmacy backs into AIM

THE PHARMACY, the London bar and restaurant owned by Manchester United director Michael Edelson and public relations entrepreneur Matthew Freud, will be valued at up to £7.2m under terms for a reverse takeover announced yesterday.

The group is coming to the Alternative Investment Market via a reverse takeover of Hartford Group, a shell company. Hartford is paying an initial £3.8m for Blueledge, the company that includes The Pharmacy, plus an additional payment of up to £3.6m depending on performance.

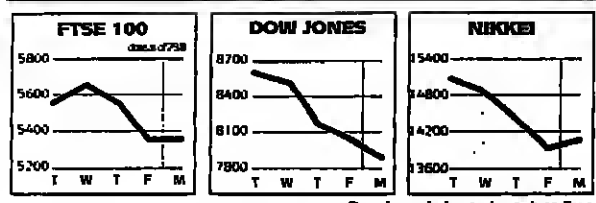
Mutuals' bull market stumbles

AMERICA'S MUTUAL FUND industry, for so long the humming engine of the bull market on Wall Street, is suddenly starting to splutter.

Final figures for August may show a net outflow of money from the equity funds, the first negative month since September 1990, nearly eight years ago.

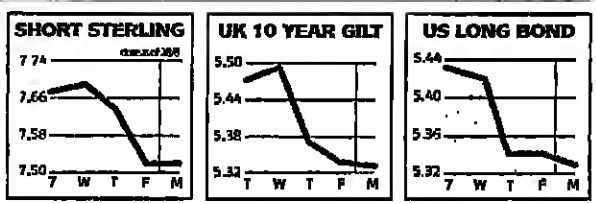
News Analysis, page 13

STOCK MARKETS



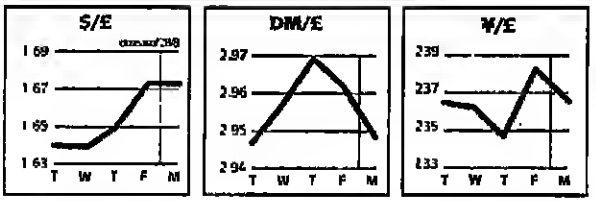
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	YTD (%)
FTSE 100	5248.40	0.00	0.00	6183.70	4382.80	3.78
FTSE 250	4786.20	0.00	0.00	5970.90	4428.30	4.21
FTSE 350	2515.10	0.00	0.00	2969.10	2141.80	3.86
FTSE All Share	2440.84	0.00	0.00	2886.52	2106.59	3.86
FTSE SmallCap	2126.10	0.00	0.00	2793.80	2103.20	3.90
FTSE Fledgling	1187.10	0.00	0.00	1517.10	1187.10	4.33
FTSE AIM	898.60	0.00	0.00	1146.90	898.60	1.49
FTSE ERLC 100	909.44	0.00	0.00			
Dow Jones	7940.71	-102.21	-1.27	9367.84	6971.32	1.87
Nikkei	14107.89	192.26	1.38	18775.08	13792.76	1.08
Hang Seng	7275.04	-554.70	-7.09	15242.65	6344.79	5.66
Dax	4833.89	-159.65	-3.20	6217.83	3487.24	3.32

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.63	0.31	7.38	-0.25	5.33	-1.74	5.10	-1.89
US	5.63	-0.09	5.53	-0.50	5.05	-1.23	5.33	-1.23
Japan	0.53	0.06	0.64	-0.02	1.30	-0.92	1.82	-0.99
Germany	3.48	0.17	3.64	-0.01	4.22	-1.47	5.03	-1.37

CURRENCIES



Index	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6725	0.000	1.6115
Q-Mark	2.9480	-1.57pt	2.9237
Yen	236.71	-11.56	194.55
E index	106.00	0.00	102.20
S index	114.90	0.00	105.60

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	12.20	0.00	18.25
Gold (\$)	276.05	1.70	324.15
Silver (\$)	4.79	0.00	4.72
Base Rates	7.50	7.00	

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.8231	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.90
Austria (schillings)	20.08	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2201
Belgium (francs)	58.98	New Zealand (\$)	3.2380
Canada (\$)	2.5213	Norway (krone)	12.83
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8358	Portugal (escudos)	291.29
Denmark (krone)	10.95	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0421
Finland (markka)	8.7925	Singapore (\$)	2.8065
France (francs)	5.5832	Spain (pesetas)	242.00
Germany (marks)	2.8666	South Africa (rand)	10.33
Greece (drachma)	492.16	Sweden (krone)	13.17
Hong Kong (\$)	12.35	Switzerland (francs)	2.3556
Ireland (pounds)	1.1359	Thailand (bahts)	63.83
Israel (shekels)	64.52	Turkey (liras)	441.098
Italy (lira)	5.8972	USA (\$)	1.6053
Japan (yen)	231.29		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.6370		
Malta (lira)	0.6213		

LONDON MARKETS are braced for further turbulence today after a sharp fall in the Hang Seng index and further declines on Wall Street as dealers continued to fret about the crisis in Russia.

The Duma's decision to reject Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister came after the close of European markets, but analysts said the move would increase fears of a worsening situation in Russia.

As London traders return to their desks today after the August bank holiday, they will face markets still jittery after further volatile sessions yesterday.

Hong Kong stocks were the hardest hit with the Hang Seng losing almost 6 per cent of its value in the first seven minutes of trading yesterday following a government retreat from its massive buying campaign last Friday.

The Hang Seng eventually closed 7 per cent lower, or 544

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

points down, at 7,275.04. In Frankfurt, the Xetra DAX fell 114.52 points, or 2.32 per cent to close at 4,811.28. Some dealers are forecasting a further 300 point fall.

In France the CAC-40 fell 57.12 points, or 1.54 per cent to 3,651.85 on thin volume.

In Russia, where the rouble

crisis sparked the global downturn, the RTSI-Interfax index dipped 1.74 per cent on minimal volume.

In Brazil, where share prices fell by 40 per cent in August, a further two per cent fall was registered when European markets closed.

Markets had drawn comfort early on from a 1.38 per cent rally in Tokyo stocks. The Nikkei closed 192.8 points high-

er at 14,107 though elsewhere in Asia most share markets took a tumble.

Wall Street opened strongly and was up 43 points at one stage, but that confidence soon disappeared and the early gains turned into a 135 point fall (by 4.40pm), the first time the market had slipped below the 8,000 mark since 2 February.

The Nasdaq Composite

was also hammered, shedding 4.5 per cent at one stage.

On Wall Street dealers were pessimistic yesterday: "People are piling out of technology stocks," one senior trader said. "There is no news behind the plunge, just all round liquidation."

However, in London, some leading economists were more sanguine. Michael Hughes, a director of Barings

Asset Management, said: "Until you can pinpoint some new news, this market will be directionless."

"The really good news would be US or UK interest rates starting to fall, but that might not happen until October or November," he said. "Until then the focus will be on the bad news, particularly the Russian situation. Uncertainty there will cap the market for a while."

"But there is no doubt that we are starting to see some semblance of value in the UK and, to some extent, in Asia."

Attention this week will shift to a meeting between American President Clinton and Boris Yeltsin.

The pair meet tomorrow while Mr Yeltsin is still grappling with the financial crisis and a political vacuum following his decision a week ago to dismiss the government led by former Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko.

Bear pressure takes toll on bids and deals

BEAR MARKET pressures are threatening to undermine a string of deals and fund-raising exercises as share prices continue to slide in the wake of the Russian crisis and the Asian fall-out, writes Andrew Verity.

The list of corporate activity that could be affected includes JJB Sports' £105m rights issue to fund its £290m takeover of Sports Direct and the battle between Dennis and Mayflower for Dennis, which makes bus

chassis. The slump in share prices was also listed as one reason for the collapse last week of merger talks between Booker and Somerfield, the supermarket group.

City observers fear JJB's £105m rights issue looks set to flop leaving the bulk of the shares with the underwriters. JJB's shares open today at 432.5p, 7.5p below the rights issue offer price of 440p. It is understood barely 10 per

cent of the shares have been taken up ahead of today's 3pm deadline for subscription. Warburg Dillon Read is underwriting the 7-for-25 rights issue and is likely to be left with most of the rights. Shares in JJB have fallen from a peak of 820p in March.

Falling prices have also swung the battle for Dennis in favour of Mayflower, the engineering group which is seeking to trump an approved bid by

Henlys, the bus and coach manufacturer. Mayflower is offering 450p in cash for each share in Dennis in a hostile bid, disrupting an agreed cash and paper offer by Henlys.

Henlys' offer, of 7-for-10 shares plus 150p, will value Dennis at 478p when the markets open today, based on Henlys share price of 468p. But further slides in the market will push shareholders toward Mayflower.

Brewer is taking his Old Monk to market

BY NIGEL COPE

THE BROTHER OF Tim Martin, chief executive of pub group JD Wetherspoon, is maintaining the family tradition by bringing his Old Monk Company chain of pubs to the stock market.

Gerry Martin, a former development manager at Wetherspoon's, controls 80 per cent of Old Monk, which is expected to be valued at around £14m when it comes to the Alternative Investment Market next month.

The float, that is being conducted via a placing, will raise £3m for expansion. Founded in 1995 Old Monk Company has 18 managed pubs, mainly in the City of London and the South East. The plan is to increase the chain to 30 pubs next year and 50 within three years. The group recorded pre-tax profits of £489,000 on turnover of £5.4m in 1997.

The strategy is to expand the Old Monk pub concept though the group also operates two Springbok bars in central London. These are designed to cater for visiting South Africans.

Mr Martin was a "bit" concerned about the current volatility in stock markets, but did not think conditions would derail his float. "I think there will still be the appetite out there for quality companies," he said.



Old Monk keeps up a family tradition by going to market, as finance director Jonathan Hale (left), Gerry Martin (chairman) and Steve Pyle get the habit

Asia boosts Avocet to a £70m float

BY ANDREW VERITY

A YORKSHIRE DOOR and window handles maker, which benefited from the crisis in Asia, yesterday said it was planning to float for an estimated value of £70m - stock market conditions permitting.

Avocet Hardware, which sells window and door handles with multiple bolts, gained a substantial advantage from the devaluing of currencies last year in Asia, where more than half of its products are made.

The group, which has been planning a listing for 12 months, said it would float later this year through a placing with fund managers so long as there is sufficient appetite for small company equities.

David Kent, chief executive, said: "Clearly what has happened in the market hasn't been helpful. It was beginning to improve (for small cap stocks) but it's only in the last few weeks that the index has gone down."

"But we are not giving up." Twenty-five senior executives of Avocet stand to share at least £10.5m in the shape of a 15 per cent stake in the company. This will rise to 25 per cent, or over £17.5m, depending on the company's performance.

Mr Kent owns over half of the management stake.



David Kent, chief executive, stands to make £5m-£9m

Avocet had planned to go public in 1992, but was bought instead by Sheffield Insulation Group, the insulation tiles company. In March last year, NatWest Markets and 3i led a leveraged management buy-out with a view to going public this year.

A placing would help reduce big interest payments stemming from the MBO and give Avocet better cash flow which is needed for a planned expansion into Europe.

But the group said it needed "a decent multiple" to make the flotation work.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

HONG KONG

STOCKS in Hong Kong slumped to a sharply lower close as the government retreated after its huge buying campaign on Friday. The Hang Seng Index shed 7.08 per cent to finish 554 points lower at 7,275.04 after hitting a low of 7,233.81. Turnover shrank to HK\$6.57bn (US\$848m) against Friday's record of HK\$79bn. Brokers said the government was still in the market but buying less aggressively. The market fell on the heels of futures which ended at a discount to the cash market.

TOKYO

SHARE PRICES closed higher, buoyed by position covering and bargain hunting, with investors optimistic over Salora Bank's move to raise ¥300bn to strengthen its balance sheet. The Nikkei 225 index closed up 192.26 points at 14,107.89, off a high of 14,224.18 and a low of 13,845.15. The index had sunk to a 12-year low on Friday. The Topix index closed up 19.50 points at 1,106.49, with the Nikkei 300 index up 3.96 points at 216.22.

FRANKFURT

AFTER a strong start, the German Xetra DAX lost ground on yesterday afternoon as traders braced for another round of news from Russia. The index fell 114.52 points, or 2.32 per cent, to close at 4,811.28 - just before the news that the Duma had rejected Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister. "There is some risk that the DAX will fall back to 4,500 points because there are no support levels you can draw on between 5,000 and 4,500," Vereinsbank's Gerhard Schwarz said.

PARIS

STOCKS fell for a fourth day, led by Total SA and Elf Aquitaine SA, on low earnings expectations. The CAC-40 index fell 57.12 points, or 1.54 per cent, to 3,651.85, after a 0.98 percent drop Friday. Thirty-five stocks fell and five stocks rose. Volume was thin as dealers awaited news on the Russian crisis. Shares in Bic, the pen-to-lighter maker which does much of its business in the US, dropped 6.42 per cent on the weakness of the dollar.

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICAN stocks took a beating for the eighth day in a row as South Africa's largest banks raised their prime and mortgage rates, potentially stifling economic growth with higher borrowing costs threatening to dent companies' profits. The All Share Index declined 62.9, or 1.3 per cent, to 4,923.4, an eight-day decline of 22.9 per cent. Financial services shares fell on concern banks' credit growth could slow and their bad debts could increase, said traders.

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Central bank doves in the ascendancy

ONE OF the reasons why monetary policy is superior to fiscal policy as a mechanism for the short term management of the economy is that interest rates are much more able to respond to changing circumstances than tax rates and government spending plans. In recent months, circumstances have been changing very rapidly, both in the UK and in the rest of the world, and the case for higher interest rates anywhere in the world has evaporated. The question on the table today is whether the major central banks should now be cutting rates.

Let us start with the UK. How does the debate on the conduct of monetary policy since the election now look? As usual, it is only possible to make definitive judgments on these matters several years after the event, so the following assessment is still very tentative. In my view, there remains a good case for arguing that base rates should have been increased more rapidly in 1997 in order to hit the consumer earlier and to persuade the foreign exchange markets that rates had well peaked before the start of 1998.

However, given that this was not achieved last year, it is no longer clear to me that the hawk on the MPC were right to argue for higher rates in the first half of this year. Without any doubt, Eddie George and DeAnne Julius, who were reluctant to raise rates from February onwards, have had their case strengthened by recent events.



GAVYN DAVIES

Business surveys suggest the economy may be heading for a harder landing than predicted

When I last wrote about UK monetary policy a couple of months ago, I said that the case for higher base rates depended on an assessment of the relative strength of two conflicting forces.

First, the increase in average earnings suggested that unemployment had fallen below its equilibrium rate, and that this implied that output was running as much as 2 per cent above its normal trend. Output would need to be brought back down to its trend level if inflation were to be controlled, and there was no case for delaying this correction.

Second, however, there was the question of whether output was al-

ready embarked on the necessary decline in response to earlier increases in base rates and the strength of the pound.

My conclusion was that output was indeed falling rapidly enough to control inflation on existing policy, so that further base rate increases were not needed. In August, the MPC concurred with this assessment.

Since then, new evidence has emerged on both the key questions outlined above. On the first, latest average earnings figures have been less worrying, and Robin Morris has presented evidence to suggest that much of the earlier rise in earnings was due to bonus payments. If he is right, then it is possible that earnings might decline more rapidly than normal as the economy slows.

Furthermore, the government statisticians are apparently preparing to reduce their previous estimates of GDP growth during the recent upswing by a cumulative 1-2 per cent. This would call into question whether output is as far above trend as had seemed likely on previous figures.

Meanwhile, on the second question, business surveys have continued to be very bleak indeed, suggesting that the economy may already be embarking on a harder landing than has been built into consensus projections. The CBI, which had previously remained quite sanguine in the face of plan-

ning confidence readings in its own survey, is now talking of three successive quarters of zero growth in the economy, which would be more than enough to achieve the necessary correction in output.

Consequently, both of the key forces have moved in a direction which is dovish for UK interest rates. The question of rate cuts will soon be on the agenda, and how soon we will see them announced depends largely on the path for sterling. This in turn hinges to an important extent on what happens to interest rates in the rest of the world.

For most of this year, it seemed very obvious that the relative balance of domestic monetary conditions in the major economies needed to be altered. Given the sharp tightening in labour market conditions in the US, the Federal Reserve was seeking an early opportunity to raise the Fed Funds rate. Equally obviously, Japan and the rest of Asia were desperately seeking ways of easing domestic monetary conditions, but were being thwarted by the chronic weakness of Asian exchange rates. While it was very apparent that this change in relative monetary conditions was desirable, it was not so clear whether the overall stance of monetary policy in the OECD as a whole needed to be tightened or eased.

This has now been clarified - it needs to be eased. This is because

THE THREAT TO GROWTH				
OECD GDP GROWTH (excl. Korea)				
	1997	1998	1999	2000
With no Shocks	3.0	2.5	2.7	3.3
With Asia I (Main Case)	2.8	2.3	2.2	2.5
With Asia I and Asia II	2.8	2.2	2.0	2.0
With Asia I, II and Latin American Shocks	2.8	2.1	1.8	1.7
With Asia I, II, LA and Equity Shocks	2.8	1.9	1.0	1.7

the possibility of new shocks emanating from the financial markets has significantly increased the risk of a global recession in the next couple of years.

Financial markets have lately been characterised by an increase in risk aversion by global investors, especially in the area of emerging markets. With investors seeking higher returns for holding emerging market assets, the cost of capital has risen sharply in Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Individual episodes such as the collapses of Indonesia and now Russia should be seen in this light. As these collapses have occurred, there have been important contrac-

tory effects on the developed Western economies, initially working through trade linkages, but potentially later beginning to affect business and consumer confidence in the Western economies themselves. Eventually these emerging market shocks have undermined confidence in western equity markets, causing a rise in risk aversion in these markets as well.

The table shows how the prospects for world growth in the next two years could be eroded by a succession of emerging market and stock market shocks. In the absence of any such shocks, growth in the developed countries would have been a healthy 2.7 per cent

next year. The Asian shock that has already happened ("Asia I") is likely to reduce this to 2.2 per cent. If there were further disorderly devaluations in Asia and Latin America, this would reduce the OECD growth rate to only 1.8 per cent. And if this were enough to trigger a sustained 30 per cent correction in global stockmarkets (compared with the July peak), the global growth rate would drop to only 1.0 per cent next year. This would be the third worst out-turn in any calendar year since the war, and suddenly talk of outright price deflation in the Western economies would no longer look so fanciful.

Fortunately, none of this has happened yet, and all of it is amenable to correction by timely action from the central banks. They essentially have two options. One is to wait and see whether financial market turbulence will quieten down of its own accord, and only to reduce interest rates if there are further major accidents, such as a devaluation in China, Hong Kong or Brazil. The other is to seek to head off the risk of such accidents by easing monetary policy in the US and Europe in a pre-emptive fashion, essentially seeking to give currency and equity markets a clear signal to calm down.

Central bankers are a cautious breed but even they might soon begin to think that just such a pre-emptive easing might be a prudent stitch in time.

News Analysis: Until July, the US funds were attracting \$20bn a month

Wanted: good news to save mutuals' eight-year bull run



An affectionate pat on the nose for a bull statue near Wall Street. Investors see warning signs of a mutual funds sell-off Adam Nadel/AP

AMERICA'S mutual fund industry, for so long the humming engine of the bull market on Wall Street, is suddenly starting to splutter. Indeed, when all the sums are done, August may show a net outflow of money from the equity funds. That would be first negative

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

month since September 1990, nearly eight years ago.

No wonder managers of the funds, many of whom have never had to deal with a market that is going south, are having kittens. And, for now, there is little they can do except watch and pray that the investors who have kept them flying for so many years ignore the gloom and come back to the party.

"It's hand-holding time right now," one leading manager on Wall Street sighed yesterday. "Our greatest fear is that this goes on long enough that the public will start to go sour on us. Then, who knows what will happen."

How individual investors in America react to the current turmoil is critical to what happens next. No less than 60 per cent of all stocks in the United States is held by households, and much of that investment is directed through the mutual funds. Since 1991, the funds have taken in a staggering \$1.1 trillion. Even until July this year, they were attracting \$20bn or more in fresh cash every month.

The good news is that so far, there is little evidence of panic. Either because they are not ready to believe that the bull market is really over or because they early on that they were ready to ride out the bad times

with the good, large numbers of investors are so far resisting the urge to sell outright.

The evidence that sentiment is worsening, however, is inescapable. With the Dow Jones industrial index down nearly 14 per cent since its 17 July peak, the impulse to get out, by shifting, for example, to fixed-income securities or to money-market funds, can only get stronger. American investors have not witnessed a slide in stock values of this magnitude since the 21 per cent drop suffered during the 1990 Gulf War.

And crucially, while some may for now be holding on to their stocks, few seem moved to see a buying opportunity in the recent slide. Only if investors decide to buy on the dips can there be any realistic chance that the swoon in the Dow will turn out to be a correction instead of the start of a real bear market.

With the help of a baseball analogy, Michael Molder of Solomon Smith Barney commented: "I think the consensus is rolling around that we're in the second inning of a bear market rather than the ninth of inning of a correction."

Some analysts warn there is far worse to come, like Steve Leuthold, a long-time money manager in Minneapolis. He believes that even with the recent slide, US stocks are something like 35 per cent overvalued. "It continues to be one

of, if not the most, overvalued equity markets of all time," he suggested, adding that the Dow Jones could fall to 5,000 before the valuations are back in line with earnings. "If we move to net redemptions of mutual funds on a consistent basis, it could happen awfully quickly."

Unless the Dow picks itself up quickly, there is a clear risk that the pace of redemptions will begin to snowball, espe-

tracks fund performances, notes that more a third of its fund categories are now off by more than 10 per cent from their highs. That alone, says Michael Lipper, is an indication that "we have elements of a bear market."

Fund managers are attempting to reassure themselves, and their clients, with the mostly good news offered by America's domestic economy. They point out that more than 70 per cent of economic activity in the US derives from households, where, for now at least, the picture remains overwhelmingly positive. Consumer confidence is still high, in spite of the current market crisis. The employment statistics are stellar - just about anyone who wants a job in America has one - and income levels are at historic highs. Nor, with inflation still at bay, is there any obvious pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates.

Perhaps the most upbeat of voices on Wall Street is that of Abby Cohen, investment strategist for Goldman Sachs. She believes it cannot be long before investors begin to buy up some of the drooping stocks, notably in the financial and technology sectors. "If investors are inclined to raise a little cash, they look to sell the stocks that have gone up a lot," she commented. "But we think that the change in fundamentals has been dramatically overstated."

Lipper Analytical, which

Catalogue sales boom for high street giants

BRITAIN'S MAIL ORDER market is on the brink of a substantial surge in growth as retailers, such as Marks & Spencer and Arcadia, enter the market, according to a fresh report published today.

The report, from Verdict, the leading retail consultancy, says that the traditional mail order houses such as Littlewoods and Great Universal Stores have been spurred on by these new entrants to offer more innovative direct marketing catalogues.

New catalogues such as La Redoute, Select and The Book, are targeting people outside the

traditional agency market, and can compete directly with the high street, providing a stimulus for strong growth.

Verdict says more providers are likely to follow the example of Next, which offers home shopping under the same brand name as its high street outlets.

Firms using the traditional agency route, which still makes up just over half of all catalogue sales, are taking an ever-decreasing share of the market.

"Home shopping has for too long failed to realise its potential as a convenient form of shopping. The key was the

weak brand identity of the traditional mail order houses and the downmarket associations. The entry of high street retail brands will widen the reach of home shopping and make it more acceptable," Verdict said.

The UK home shopping market grew by 7.9 per cent last year to £8.2bn, largely as a result of the entry of companies such as M&S and Arcadia.

Direct catalogues were the main driver, showing 15 per cent growth. GUS remains the market leader with a 24 per cent share, followed by Littlewoods and Grattan.

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Investment	Rate	Rate	Rate
Scarborough 120 & 120 By Post	7.45	5.96	
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£25,000 - £49,999.99	7.25	5.80	
£10,000 - £24,999.99	7.15	5.72	
£5,000 - £9,999.99			
Scarborough 30 & 30 By Post*	7.30	5.84	
£1,000 - £250,000	6.90	5.52	
£100 - £999.99			
Scarborough Standard	4.10	3.28	
£25,000 - £250,000	3.50	2.80	
£10,000 - £24,999.99	2.75	2.20	
£5,000 - £9,999.99	2.35	1.88	
£1,000 - £4,999.99			
Keystone Strategic Bond & Bond By Post**	6.85	5.48	
£1,000 - £250,000			
£1,000 - £24,999.99	5.05	4.04	
£15 - £999.99	5.00	4.00	
£15 - £999.99	4.95	3.96	
Keystone By Post**	5.05	4.04	
£25,000 - £250,000	5.00	4.00	
£1,000 - £24,999.99	4.95	3.96	
£15 - £999.99			
Young Superpower	5.50	4.48	
£1,000 - £25,000	4.90	3.92	
£500 - £999.99	4.80	3.82	
£250 - £499.99	4.70	3.72	
£100 - £249.99	4.60	3.62	
£10 - £99.99	2.60	2.08	
Superpower (rates include a 1% gross interest bonus)			
£25,000 - £250,000	4.45	3.56	
£10,000 - £24,999.99	4.45	3.56	
£5,000 - £9,999.99	3.85	3.08	
£2,500 - £4,999.99	3.10	2.48	
£1,000 - £2,499.99	2.70	2.16	
£500 - £999.99	2.70	2.16	
£100 - £499.99	2.60	2.08	
£10 - £249.99			
First Post Plus			
£50,000 - £250,000	4.30	3.44	
£25,000 - £49,999.99	4.25	3.40	
£10,000 - £24,999.99	3.75	3.00	
Scarborough First Post*			
£25,000 - £250,000	4.00	3.20	
£10,000 - £24,999.99	3.50	2.80	
£5,000 - £9,999.99	3.50	2.80	
£1,000 - £4,999.99	2.75	2.20	
£100 - £999.99			
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GROUPS

Shell companies still have their attraction

THE STOCK market may be in turmoil but trading in shells, one of the City's time-honoured exercises, continues to flourish. In the past month two have arrived and others are thought to be in various stages of fulfilment.

Shells are companies with little, if any, trading operations. They often have cash in the bank, but their prize asset is their share quotation.

For a variety of reasons it is often cheaper, easier and quicker for an unquoted business to come to market via a shell than to indulge in a full-blown flotation.

Even stockbrokers have adopted the shell route. Earlier this year Teather & Greenwood reversed into NRC, a little property group, and last month Ellis & Partners picked the quaintly named Captain O M Watts, once a well-known yacht chandler, for its market debut.

The strength of both stockbrokers is their involvement in small companies and they are accomplished at alighting on suitable shells and arranging reverse takeovers.

Teather, in the market, is still known as NRC, but Ellis, which merged with Clifton Financial, a small company adviser, is now Talisman House. Both Teather and Ellis are traded on AIM.

The Stock Exchange, for some unexplained reason, has never fully accepted the shell business. At times it has seemed intent on putting an end to it. But although it has become more refined over the years and adjusted for changes in the rules the shell practice, with a few hiccups, has survived and generally prospered.

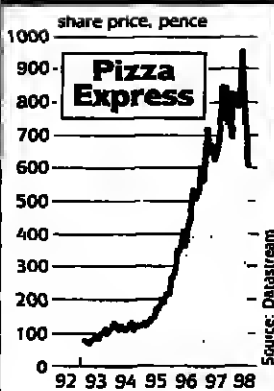
Footsie is not immune from the shell approach. Carlton Communications, the television group, came to market via a little company which published the Fleet Street Let-

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



ter tip sheet and the likes of Tomkins and the now disbanded Hanson conglomerate more or less grew out of shells.

PizzaExpress, a mid cap constituent, emerged from an unsuccessful computer group under the direction of Luke Johnson. The former City analyst, the son of writer Paul, loves the shell approach but has not always hit the jackpot.

PizzaExpress, however, has had an outstanding run moving from the equivalent of 96.5p to hit 960p. It closed last week at 960p.

His latest shell (in more ways than one) is Belgo, a former property concern. He pumped two Belgian beer and mussel restaurants into the obscure company and since

added five of London's top eateries.

At one time shells were mainly plantation companies. These relics of empire jumped along with share quotes, but little else, having been stripped of their operations as colonies gained their independence.

They often exerted their national pride by taking over, usually paying for the privilege, the plantations.

One of the available shells is an old plantation company, Dalkeith, once operating in Sri Lanka. It has experienced several incarnations. The last role was unsuccessful pub operator.

It sold its little chain and with cash in the bank awaits a reverse takeover proposition by a prosperous unquoted group. Its shares are 27.5p, giving a £1.3m capitalisation.

Dalya, cash rich with some property interests, is regarded as another; its shares are 95.5p providing a rather more impressive £2.3m price tag.

Others looking for substance include Grosvenor (2p and 22m) and Cambury (2.25p and £34m).

Hartford is a new breed, a specially-created shell. Its shares are suspended at 2.75p while it completes the reverse takeover of one of London's latest trendy restaurants, The Pharmacy, in a deal billed as worth £10m.

Most shells these days reside on AIM, although some likely candidates exist with full listings.

Investors can reap rich rewards. But a few words of warning: a reverse takeover often requires a heavy cash call and shareholders can be sharply diluted. And the revamped operation may be a disaster. Shells biter the corporate graveyard and many which survive with their new yoke merely limp along with

little real future until they, perhaps, find another reverse takeover.

Shells do not feature in this week's profits schedule, although Daejan, once a rubber planter now a property group and valued at £243m, holds its yearly meeting on Friday.

Enterprise Oil, with half-year figures, heads the list; it will have to battle to stay in the black. BT Alex Brown's Caroline Cook expects an 88 per cent decline in clean net income to £8.6m.

The slump in the crude oil price is responsible for much of the woe afflicting Enterprise and the rest of the oil industry.

The building industry is well represented. House builder Persimmon is expected to produce interim profits of £28m (against £23.3m); Marley, now a building materials group, should manage half-time figures of £26.5m (£24.5m) and Graham, the builders merchant, is thought to be set for interims of £11.1m (£8.3m).

Wickes, the once troubled group which is both builders merchant and retailer, should produce its first profits, albeit interims, since it was hit by an accounting scandal three years ago. Around £11m against a £14.7m deficit is expected.

AMEC, the construction group, is another on the agenda; it could manage £21.5m, up from £16m.

Other interims are due from packaging groups Jefferson Smurfit and Bimbi. The Irish-based operation could manage £100m against £61m and Bimbi should produce a modest improvement at £63m.

Fashion retailer Monsoon with year's figures is thought to be on target for £28.6m against £25.4m. It floated in February.

IN BRIEF

Shell seeking a refining partner

ROYAL DUTCH/Shell yesterday said it was in talks with several big oil companies, including Texaco, about merging its European refining operations with a competitor.

The oil giant wants a merger to boost refining profits, which fell by 10 per cent in the second quarter of this year. Reports of full-blown merger talks with Texaco were dismissed as speculation.

Reinsurer sale

CREDIT SUISSE GROUP is to sell the reinsurer arm of Winterthur Insurance to Bermuda-based PartnerRe for \$776m as the Swiss bank continues to reshuffle the insurer's portfolio.

Winterthur will concentrate on direct insurance, Credit Suisse said.

Brew bid rejected

GROLSCH, the Dutch brewing group, has rejected a takeover bid from Interbrew of Belgium. It said the NFL70 per share offer was not in the interests of shareholders. Interbrew said it would not launch a hostile bid.

EU nod for BP

BP'S PROPOSED \$52.3bn merger with Amoco is not likely to face major regulatory problems in Europe, according to Karel van Miert. The EU competition commissioner said over the weekend: "It doesn't seem that problematic a case" because the two businesses "are to a large extent complementary."

US 'grounds' C-17

BOEING'S attempt to export a civilian model of its C-17 military transport aircraft has stalled because of security concerns from the US government, reports said yesterday. Pentagon officials say that the MD-17, the civilian version, would provide any military force with a "tremendous capability".

Duke defends his family domain

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK



THE Most Noble John George Vanderbilt Henry Spencer-Churchill, Eleventh Duke of Marlborough, has taken legal action against a firm based in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, over the right to register "BLENHEIM-PALACE.CO.UK" as a domain name on the Internet.

The Duke of Marlborough's home is, of course, Blenheim Palace, at Woodstock, Oxfordshire. The Duke issued a writ on 25 August against Amicus Research & Management Ltd, and Geoffrey Louis Pidox, of 24 Plane Tree Way, Woodstock.

The writ says that the Duke is "the proprietor of the goodwill and reputation in the United Kingdom in the trade mark 'BLENHEIM PALACE'".

The writ, issued via solicitors Withers, says that the defendants "registered the Internet domain name 'BLENHEIM-PALACE.CO.UK' on or around 16 July 1997 in the name of the first defendant, without the consent of the plaintiff (the Duke), and who have by letters to the plaintiff's solicitors dated 23 July and 6 August 1998 threatened to use that Internet domain name in a manner intended to appropriate the goodwill of the plaintiff."

The Duke applies in the writ for injunctions to restrain Amicus Research using the domain name concerned, from establishing or operating a web site in that name or from offering that name for sale to anyone other than the Duke.

He also applies for injunctions to stop the defendants relinquishing the registration of the domain name without giving him seven days' notice first, from registering any further names which include "Blenheim Palace", and from passing off any goods or services as being authorised by the Duke.

The Duke's writ also asks for an order for payment to him from the defendants "not to exceed £10,000".

the trademark Playboy "rabbit head" design.

The British defendants in the legal action include Sport Newspapers of Melton Road, Thurston, Leicester.

The American Playboy business empire, founded by Hugh Hefner, has issued a writ in the London High Court via solicitors Lovell White Durrant and dated 12 August.

The writ seeks an injunction stopping the defendants from "distributing, selling, offering, advertising or exposing for sale or supply, video cassettes... or business stationery the First Plaintiff's trademarks PLAYBOY, RABBIT HEAD DESIGN, PLAYMATE and PLAYMATE OF THE YEAR".

The defendants include Screen Multimedia of Maddox Street, London; City Trading, of Barking, Essex; Palan Trading and Palan Distribution of Kingsway, London; and the proprietors of three "private shops" at Brewer Street in Soho, Forest Road in Walthamstow and Upton Lane in Forestgate respectively.

PORTSMOUTH Football Club has launched a writ against ASICS UK, a company which has supplied playing kit to the club's players, and JJB Sports, which has supplied replica kit to supporters.

The club's writ, issued on 18 August, refers to various agreements between it and the defendants to produce kit featuring the club's logo between 1995 and 1997.

The writ also refers to an earlier dispute in 1997 when ASICS claimed it was owed money by the club.

The club alleges that the defendants produced clothing featuring the Club's logo after the various sponsorship agreements had expired, and demands an injunction to stop them doing so. The writ, issued by solicitors Hammond Sudards of Manchester, also asks for damages.

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

TODAY - Interims: BCI Group, Calderburn, Finlay (James), IBC, Marshalls, Parkins Food, Bunzl, CRH, Persimmon. Finals: Alumasc Group, AGMs: Laporie, Transport Development Group, Economics: Purchasing Managers' Index (August), Provisional M0 (August), Final M4 (July), Consumer Credit (July), Monetary and Financial Statistics.

WEDNESDAY - Interims: Beaufort, Bustrace International, CNG, Graham Group, Guardian Group, Hickson Group, Johnston Press, Malalan, Miltras, Skypharma, Sercu, Wilson Bowden. Finals: Brit Aircraft, Linc Printing, Monsoon, Roxsup, AGMs: Huntingdon Life, Economics: UK official reserves (August).

THURSDAY - Interims: AMEC, Boozey & Hawkes, Caird, Clubhaus, Delphi Group, Enterprise Oil, Evans Halshaw, Marchpole, Meggit, Marley, Senior Engineering, Slough Estates, Swallowfield, Wembley, Wickes, Wilson (Connolly). Finals: IAF Group, Isotron AGMs: Man (ED&F), Economics: CIPS Service Survey (August).

FRIDAY - Interims: Hammerson, ITNet, AGMs: Daejan Holdings, General Electric, Economics: Construction output (Q2), New car sales (August).

ISA providers warn of delays

BY ANDREW VERTY

THE GOVERNMENT'S plans for Individual Savings Accounts have suffered a further setback from providers who warn they will not be able to offer government-endorsed ISAs when they come on stream next April.

Providers say delays in detailed government proposals for "CAT-marked" ISAs - savings meeting prescribed criteria for Cost, Access and Terms - mean few, if any, of the

products will be available to the public on schedule.

Hard proposals have been put back until October at the earliest following the last cabinet reshuffle, when Helen Liddell, the Treasury minister in charge of the plans, was replaced by Patricia Hewitt.

Autif, the unit trust trade body, now says it is going to be "impossible" for its members to

adapt computer systems in time to offer unit trusts within CAT-marked ISAs by April 6, the scheduled start date.

Philip Warland, its director general, said unit trust firms - already preoccupied with screening for the millennium computer bug - had "not the faintest prayer" of having systems ready.

M&G, one of the biggest unit trust managers, said Treasury plans for single pricing on CAT-

marked ISAs would add to systems problems. Most unit trust providers are still not set up to offer single-pricing on unit trusts.

The government's initial plans for CAT-marking have irritated many fund managers because of a plan to give the Treasury seal of approval only to unit trusts which track an index of leading shares. Several leading industry figures - including a members of the Per-

sonal Investment Authority, the personal finance watchdog - have warned of a potential "mis-buying" problem.

They say the Government could be blamed if customers lose money in products holding the Treasury's seal of approval. While the delays are certain to affect ISAs carrying the government's CAT-mark, many providers will offer ISAs which are not endorsed by the Treasury.



Philip Warland: Not even a prayer of being ready

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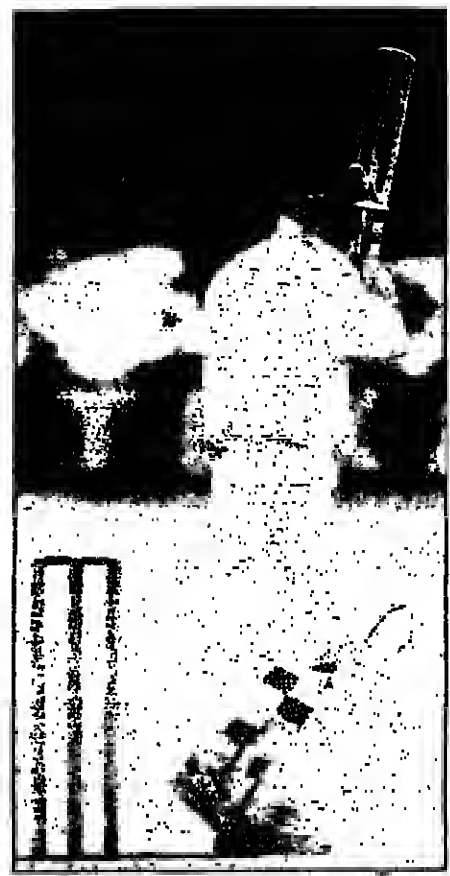
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SPORT



Joey Benjamin (main picture) took five wickets against Nottinghamshire while Ian Ward (top right) and Nadeem Shahid (bottom right) have scored heavily when replacing Surrey's England men



Allsport

Surrey's winning squad ethic

THE REMARKABLE thing about Surrey's summer is not that they are top of the Championship, nor the fact that they have stayed there, setting the pace virtually from the outset, but rather who has kept them there. Because it has not been the household names who have been doing all the hard work this summer.

When Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Mark Butcher, Ian Salisbury, Alistair Brown, Adam Holoake and his brother Ben and have all gone off to do their bit for Queen, Lord MacLaurin and country, Surrey have had to turn to their volunteer reserve force for some sterling work in maintaining the Championship challenge.

It has not just been England calls which have decimated the squad either - injuries have taxed Surrey's staffing levels too. Thorpe joined the casualty list halfway through the season and was ruled out for the rest of it, joining the opening batsman Darren Bicknell, who did not even start it. And latterly Alex Tudor and Ben Holoake have also been laid up.

For each enforced absence - and the club has had to cope with a minimum of three England calls plus a couple of injuries at any one time this year - players have had to be found who were capable and competent enough to step into the breach. More than that, though, there has to be a confidence in the side that allows the stand-ins to step in at a moment's notice and just perform.

Equally, the regulars remaining in the team have to have faith in the understudies' abilities and, more importantly, communicate that faith to the in-comers.

As proud as each and every one of their internationalists must have felt as they have waltzed off to represent their country, there is no doubt that they will have cast more than one anxious glance over their shoulder wondering whether Surrey can manage without them.

The answer, almost every time, has been that they could. So who are these brave few? These stalwarts on whom a county relies in time of need? They are men whose names should be carved into the walls of the Surrey pavilion should Holoake and his men win the County Championship for the first time since Micky Stewart, now their president, led Surrey to the title in 1971.

The names of Jason Ratcliffe, Nadeem Shahid, Ian Ward and Joey Benjamin do not exactly get autograph hunters salivating and licking their pencils, but what they have achieved in the absence of the big guns is quite something. Runs and wickets have been the name of their game.

The figures speak for themselves. Ratcliffe has made 449 runs at 32.07, with a hundred and two half-centuries; Shahid, 576 runs at 41.14, with two hundreds and three fifties; Ward, 496 at 33.20, with five half-centuries. Benjamin has provided critical support for Martin Bicknell,

Stewart and Co may have been away with England but their replacements have done cricket's Championship leaders proud. By David Llewellyn

the strike bowler, from time to time - and took five crucial wickets when a depleted Surrey beat Nottinghamshire last time out.

Of the regulars, Bicknell goes into today's match against Yorkshire with 60 wickets (average 18.26) in the Championship. Saglaim Mushtaq's off-spin has put him third in the averages with 63 wickets at 18.66 apiece. Ben Holoake, too, has started to come good with the ball. Brown has led the way with the bat, scoring four hundreds and five half-centuries to bring himself within sight of his 1,000 for the summer - 964 at 60.25.

It has taken some time but it is beginning to look as if Surrey have finally got it together, in the truest sense of the word. "We are made to feel appreciated by Surrey," admitted Ratcliffe, who is in his fourth season at The Oval after leaving his native Warwickshire at the end of the 1994 season. "None of us is happy with our situation," he continued, "but to the fact that the 'reserves' would rather be automatic first choices. 'But, to be fair, to Surrey they look after us well. We are made to feel we belong."

"It is hard to be in, then out of the

side, and when we are in to be expected to perform, but we are giving everything to the cause."

It is the squad ethic - something that the English, and possibly even the British, find hard to get their heads around. Alec Stewart, as captain of England, did something that suggested he is aware of the concept of squad.

Championship Top Five									
	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bowl	Run	Wkts	Rate
Surrey	14	9	3	2	50	235	225	23	22.5
Lancs	14	8	0	6	33	39	220	23	22.0
Leics	14	8	1	5	25	44	212	23	21.2
Glouce	14	8	1	5	18	53	202	23	20.2
Yorkshire	14	6	3	5	39	51	201	23	20.1

Remaining fixtures

Surrey	Today: Yorkshire (Headingley), 9 Sept	Sussex	Today: Warwickshire (Edgbaston), 9 Sept
Leicestershire	Today: Durham (Chester-le-Street), 17 Sept	Nottinghamshire	Today: Northamptonshire (Trent Bridge), 17 Sept
Leicestershire	Today: Warwickshire (Edgbaston), 9 Sept	Nottinghamshire	Today: Northamptonshire (Trent Bridge), 17 Sept
Lancashire	Today: Derbyshire (Old Trafford), 11 Sept	Nottinghamshire	Today: Northamptonshire (Trent Bridge), 17 Sept
Nottinghamshire	Today: Northamptonshire (Trent Bridge), 17 Sept	Nottinghamshire	Today: Northamptonshire (Trent Bridge), 17 Sept
Gloucestershire	Today: Middlesex (Lord's), 9 Sept	Nottinghamshire	Today: Northamptonshire (Trent Bridge), 17 Sept
Yorkshire	Today: Surrey (Headingley), 9 Sept	Nottinghamshire	Today: Northamptonshire (Trent Bridge), 17 Sept
Warwickshire	Today: Surrey (Headingley), 9 Sept	Nottinghamshire	Today: Northamptonshire (Trent Bridge), 17 Sept

After England had clinched the Test series over South Africa at Headingley, one of the first things Stewart did was to ring Thorpe and Glamorgan's Robert Croft, both of whom had played three matches in the series. "You win and lose together in the squad," Stewart said. "That is what Surrey have, a strength in depth in terms of talent and a lot of unsung heroes on whom you can rely when you need them. Surrey's present position can be put down to a real club effort."

Another man, watching from a distance these days, who is not surprised at what Surrey are achieving is David Gilbert, now Sussex's deputy chief executive and director of cricket, but last year the cricket manager at The Oval. It would be a curious and a curmudgeonly person who would deny Gilbert some of the credit for Surrey's success this year. Gilbert is too modest even to hint at it, but he admitted: "I'm not surprised that they are where they are, nor that they can withstand the loss of so many talented players at critical times and still win. If ever a competition was created for the squad system, then it has to be the County Championship. And the

squad system has to be there for a team like Surrey, with all their international players."

When Gilbert arrived at The Oval in 1995 he inherited a lot of egos in one basket. Hugely talented individuals, granted, but equally blessed (or cursed) with large dollops of character as well. There was every likelihood that the fine dividing line between self-belief and arrogance was overstepped frequently within the squad. Managing that little lot was no picnic.

When you have so many egos there is likely to be a crushing disappointment. That had certainly been the case with Surrey. Crammed with an obscenely large number of gifted individuals, they had begun their last half-dozen seasons with great expectations and vaulting ambition. True to form they overreached themselves and fell.

However, two years later under the delicate man-management skills of Gilbert they had won two trophies, one in each season, and they had signed the brilliant Pakistan Test off-spinner, Saglaim, at Gilbert's insistence. Probably most important of all, they had developed a squad ethic. They had learned how to bond, how to be a collective. At which point Gilbert left.

He knows enough about the squad to be able to evaluate the principle causes of their overdue success. "First, I think Saglaim Mushtaq has been crucial in what Surrey have been achieving," he said. "With him

bowling in tandem with the leg-spinner Ian Salisbury there will be sides dreading playing at The Oval in August and September. A hit like when sides were reticent, although for reasons of personal safety, about visiting The Oval when the fast bowlers Sylvester Clarke and Tony Gray were performing."

"These days the pitches at The Oval are not the hard bouncy ones of days gone by. They suit spin these days. Championship-winning sides in the past have had spin twins. Middlesex had Emburey and Edmonds, Essex had Such and Childs and Surrey in the 1950s had Laker and Lock. In the late 1990s they have Saglaim and Salisbury."

"Another factor in the Surrey success has to be the guys such as Martin Bicknell, who is bowling better these days than at any time in his career. I wonder how long England can go on ignoring him. It's about time they forgave him for his early-career injury problems."

"Then there is the fact that they can call on so many talented players who cannot command a regular first-team place and those guys then perform. They also have a good manager in Keith Medleycott, an old Surrey player who understands that special togetherness of the club and has ensured it has not been lost with all the injuries and international calls. It all boils down to them having a good squad set-up." Surrey's prospects are clearly in good hands.

Holmes benefitting from new realism

ATHLETICS
By Mike Rowbottom

SO IMMERSED WAS Kelly Holmes in her return to the athletics scene in Glasgow on Sunday that she missed the team bus back to the hotel because she was signing autographs. She knows now, however, that she is not going to miss the bus as far as the Commonwealth Games are concerned.

On an afternoon when the overall mood was one of celebration, with a sell-out crowd eager to acknowledge Britain's returning European champions, there was a tension about

Holmes's race over a mile which had to do with the fear - hers, and the spectators' - that her first serious competition after a 13-month absence with injury might end in tears.

After a cautious start, the way in which she broke clear of Paula Radcliffe just before the bell answered the unspoken question in everybody's minds. The sharpness was still lacking, but the strength, and competitive spirit, were still there.

Holmes will not race again before starting the defence of the 1500 metres title she won in Victoria four years ago. Instead, she will travel to Ireland for further treatment with the massage therapist whom she

credits with saving her career, Ger Hartmann.

After breaking down in the heats of last year's world championships with a ruptured Achilles tendon, the 28-year-old Tonbridge athlete has endured a nightmarish period of exile. Following an ineffective operation to clear scar tissue in January, she was still questioning whether she had a future in the sport as late as May.

"It was a lonely, hard year," she said. "It got to the stage where I just didn't know where to look. Your mind starts to play tricks on you when you can't see any way of getting back. I wasn't going to give up, but it was very hard to see a future."

But the future was bright; the future was Hartmann. Through Britain's team doctor, Malcolm Brown, Holmes was put in contact with the man whom Liz McColgan said had saved her career four years ago, and the work of rehabilitation began in earnest.

For four days, as Hartmann manipulated the scar tissue on her leg to restore mobility to her ankle, the woman who used to be an Army PT instructor and judo champion was reduced to tears. "It was agony," she said. "But it was worthwhile."

Holmes's sequence of injuries in recent years - shin splints in 1995, a stress fracture which she at-

tempted in vain to disregard at the 1996 Olympics - has caused many to question whether she has tended to over-train. Her most recent injury occurred during a final session of preparation for last year's world championships, which she had approached in the form of her life.

She says now that she has altered her approach. "I've learnt what things my body can and can't take," she said. "There is a line between being very fit and being injured, and you don't always know where the line is. But if I'm tired now, I will have a rest day, whereas before I would probably just have gone out for another session."

On a smaller scale, Glasgow represented a confirmation of health for another British woman athlete, namely Allison Curbishley, who set a Scottish All Comers' 400m record of 50.73sec. For Curbishley, who plans to move up to 400m hurdles next season, it was an unexpected bonus after a European Championship where her disappointment at finishing only fifth in the individual event was tempered by the relay medal.

"I was in the shape of my mind and I really saw myself being up there," she said. "When you are not, you go back to the team hotel really desolate. Now I am back in 'pb' ways and, as the cliché goes, I'm over the moon."



Holmes: Back in business

Claydon is happy among the heavyweights

GOLF
BY JOHN OAKLEY

RUSSELL CLAYDON may weigh more than 16 stone but he has no intention of going on any fitness courses. The 32-year-old from Cambridge won his first European Tour event at the BMW International in Munich, and many of his fellow professionals believe he might be even better if he lost a little weight. But Claydon is a happy soul. "If you think I'm going to run round Brighton beach, you have another think coming," he said.

Claydon, who won in Munich on Sunday with an 18-under-par aggregate of 270 to beat Jamie Spence by one shot, also has the most unorthodox grip of any Tour professional. He wraps his huge hands round the club with a three-knuckle grip and said cheerfully: "Well, it works." It certainly did on Sunday as he beat off the challenge of Spence, the Germans Thomas Gogele and Bernhard Langer, and the Danish Ryder Cup player Thomas Bjorn as he finished with a four-under-par 68. Claydon's win came just one week before the points for the 1999 Ryder Cup in Brookline,

Massachusetts, start at the Canon European Masters in Switzerland.

Asked if he was sorry to have won one week too early, Claydon replied: "Not at all. I might win next week as well."

David Duval became the second player in US PGA Tour history to win more than \$2m in a season with a two-stroke victory at the World Series of Golf in Ohio.

Duval joined Tiger Woods as the US tour's only \$2m men, the \$270,000 first prize boosting his 1998 earnings to almost £1.4m. He also became the first player since Zimbabwe's Nick Price in 1993-94 to win at

least three tournaments in consecutive years. Since 1960, only seven other players have accomplished the feat - Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Billy Casper, Raymond Floyd, Tom Watson, Lee Trevino and Johnny Miller.

The 26-year-old from Florida ended a recent slump that saw him miss the cut on his previous two starts, the PGA Championship and Sprint International. He carded a two-under 68 for an 11-under 269 total.

Phil Mickelson, who led after the first round, also closed with a 68 to grab sole possession of second place.

Davis Love was third on eight-under 272. John Cook was four shots back, one stroke ahead of Woods and Loren Roberts.

In Canada's Greater Vancouver Open, Brandel Chamblee fired a final round five-under-par 66 to gain his first career victory.

Chamblee finished at 19-under-par 265 and won by three shots as he tied the tournament record set last year by Mark Calcavecchia. The 36-year-old won after Payne Stewart faltered over the closing holes. Stewart held a one-shot lead over Chamblee entering the final round, but managed

just a one-under 70 and has won only once since his victory in the 1991 US Open. He had a pair of bogeys over the final five holes.

The captain of the United States' Solheim Cup team, Judy Rankin has used her two choices for the team on Rosie Jones and Steinhilber, who finished 11th and 12th in the Cup standings. Rankin said that was not nearly as important as their experience.

Jones, who needed to win the State Farm Rail Classic this weekend to earn a spot on the team but instead missed the cut, has a 4-2-0 record in the 1990 and 1996 Solheim Cup

matches, both US victories.

The surprise was Steinhilber, a 35-year-old from Wisconsin. She started the season 23rd in the Solheim standings and with only two victories in 11 years on the LPGA tour - the 1992 du Maurier Classic and the 1994 Sprint Championship. But she rose steadily throughout the year and made a huge leap by winning the British Open last month at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

"She won on a very difficult course in very difficult conditions, playing all those players we're going to face next month," Rankin said. All that did was make

Rankin look harder at Steinhilber, and she feels she came up with a winner.

Steinhilber was also 12th on the money list, the highest of any American who was not already on the team, and she was ranked fifth in birdies and sixth in greens in regulation, two important statistics for match play.

"When you look at my list from 11 to 20, she is the player who stepped forward and has done something," Rankin said. "When I looked in depth at some of the things she was accomplishing, she deserved her shot. She earned points in seven events this year, which I couldn't get other players to do."

TT hero rides a storm to the end



Alan Seeley sees the hero and villain of Manx racing, Phil Read (left), finish a poignant final lap

"THE OLDER I am, the faster I was" is the self-deprecating motto of many motorcycle road racers, slowing down as the years go by. But Phil Read, the seven-times world grand prix champion, was not quite ready to hang up his leathers, even though the glory days of world rides for Yamaha and MV Agusta are a long way behind him. The 59-year-old Read, who became a household name with a string of epic wins in the 1960s and 70s, raced for the last time yesterday on the legendary Isle of Man TT course, a key circuit in the forging of his reputation, and one of the last in the world to be made up of public roads. Read's return to the punishing 38-mile Isle of Man Mountain course, to contest the Senior Classic Manx Grand Prix, was an emotional one as it marked the 40th anniversary of his first island race, the 1958 junior event. Next year he will be 60 and his age will bar him from racing. Mist and fog delayed the start by three hours yesterday and Read had to be content with

16th place behind Walsall's Boh Heath. Even so, the ageing racer averaged 94.50mph over the three laps and earned a silver replica awarded to the first 18 home.

Read's first victory came in the 1960 senior (500cc) Manx. The following year came the first of his seven TT wins in the junior (350cc) event.

In 1972 the TT still counted towards the world championship and was more dangerous than the other circuits. Following the death of the Italian, Gilberto Parloti, Read was one of the most vocal of the leading riders in a campaign to have the TT's championship status revoked. This day happened, but made Read unpopular with many Isle of Man purists.

Read is unrepentant about his support of the campaign, but retains a soft spot for the Isle of Man. "By the early 70s we had a feeling that rider safety wasn't at the top of the race organisers' priorities, and the price for riders who did come a cropper was far too high. Parloti's death

was the final straw. But the Isle of Man is still the greatest and most challenging circuit in the world."

Returning to the island in 1977, Read proved he had lost none of his aptitude for the Mountain Course, snatching victory in the Formula One and the prestigious senior events, on a Honda and a Suzuki.

"It was a very emotional and worrying return. I had a van with my name on the side which I parked on the sea-front in Douglas. A policeman knocked on the hotel room door and suggested I hide the van round the back for fear of public reprisal. Some of the marshalls even threatened to strike if I rode. The message was rammed home when I was refused service in a filling station. After my victory on the senior I won back some respect, and because I overcame appalling wet conditions

to win the Formula One, there was a slightly louder cheer for me at the prizegiving."

Before this year Read's last competitive island ride was in 1982 when he posted his fastest-ever Mountain Course lap, taking 20min 22.6sec to cover the 38 miles, averaging 111.09mph. A consummate all-rounder, Read is the only racer ever to win world championships in 125, 250 and 500cc classes.

"I would ride any bike I was contracted to ride to the maximum of its and my ability. Road racing is the only thing I ever wanted to do, so I just got on with it with a will to win. Second place is the first loser," Read said.

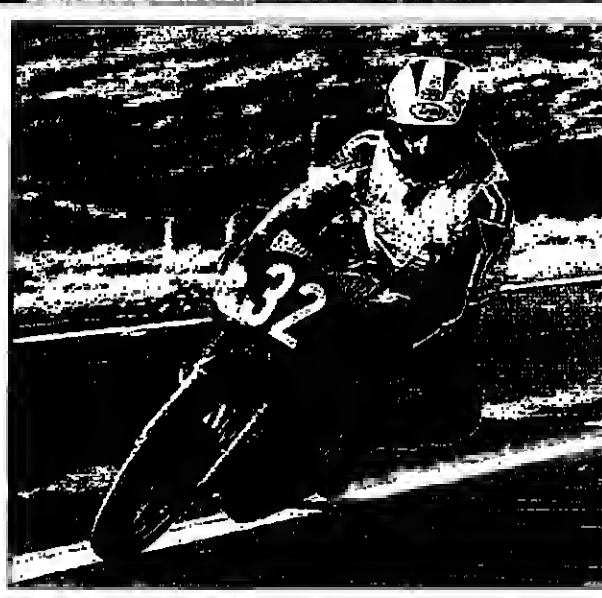
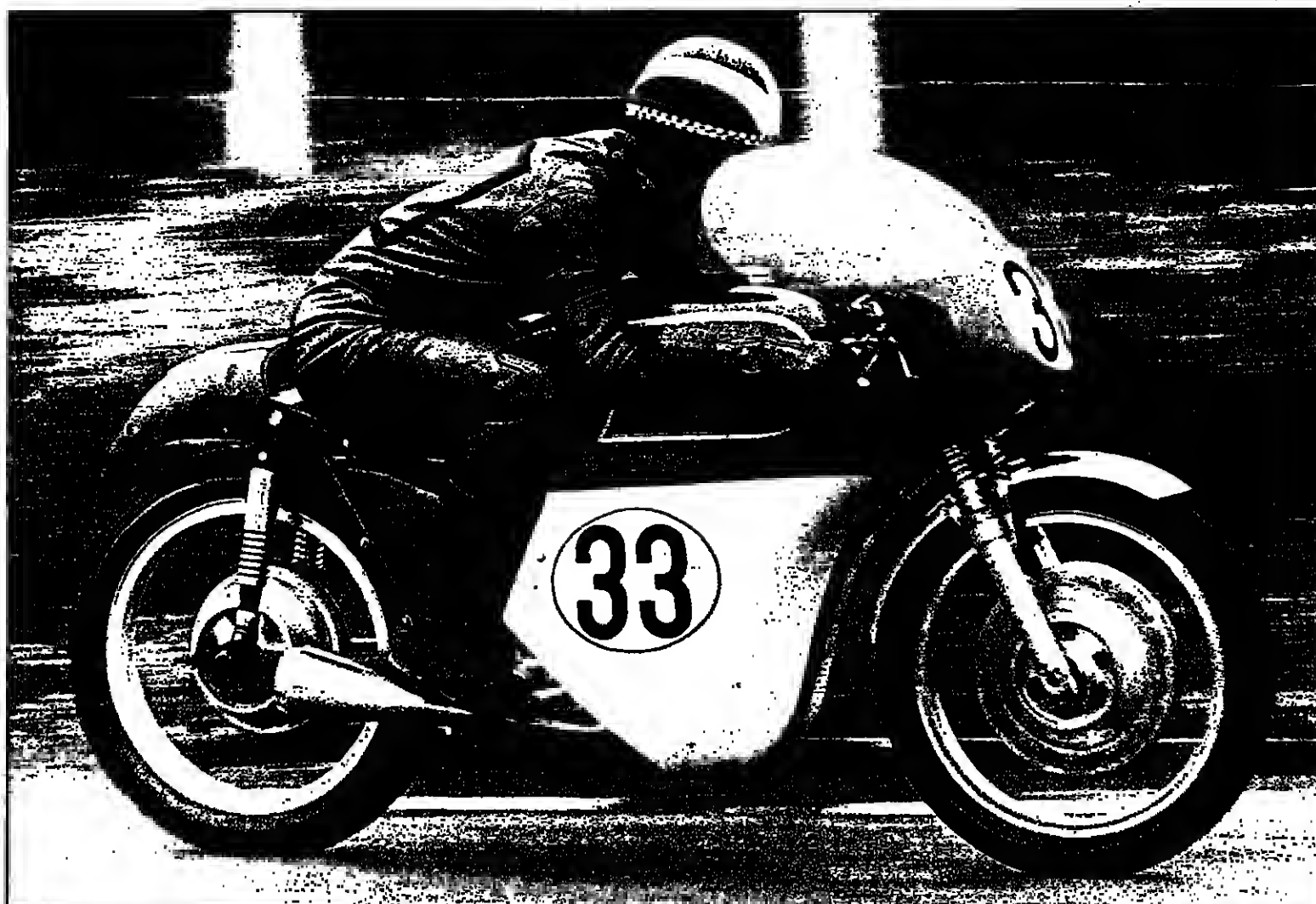
His latest and last island outing got off to a histering start, with the Prince of Speed posting the third-fastest time in the first practice session. "A lot of the really fast boys haven't been out yet and my

averages are some way off the pace," he added.

Read was right to be cautious. His Matchless G50 500cc racer, typical of the type of bike he began his career on, presented him and his team with endless problems. He broke down in sight of the finish line on his first lap of Monday evening practice, but with typical panache, took a taxi back to the paddock rather than wait for his team to pick him up once the roads had re-opened. Read did not feel under pressure to win. All he hoped for was a top 10 finish and a couple of 100mph average laps.

He did not quite get there, but when the flag dropped, he went all out for glory, just like he had done for the last 40 years.

A diary of Phil Read's TT story will appear in *Classic Bike*, published on 23 September.



Phil Read in his racing heyday (main picture) and on the Matchless G50 (above) which he took to 16th place in yesterday's Senior Classic. *Classic Bike/John Watkinson*

Croat cruises through

TENNIS
BY JOHN ROBERTS
at Flushing Meadow

GORAN IVANISEVIC, tipped as a dark horse for the United States Open by Pat Rafter, the defending men's singles champion, took a confident first step towards a possible fourth-round meeting with the Australian yesterday.

Inconsoletable after losing to Pete Sampras in five sets in his third Wimbledon final in July, Ivanisevic was in a brighter mood after defeating Mark Woodforde, one of Rafter's compatriots, in the opening round. The Croat won, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, after 87 minutes.

Woodforde was not impressed. "He's got a serve and nothing else," he said. Right or wrong, Woodforde speaks from experience. He has lost six of his eight matches against the fellow left-hander.

Ivanisevic expected Woodforde to damn him with faint praise. "He doesn't like me," the Croat said. "He tried one time to hit me with the ball. He should retire from singles and stick to doubles. He's pretty old, can't move, and has that rubbish backhand. He only covers half the court playing doubles. If I have a son, I will show him pictures of Woodforde and tell him not to play like him."

The tone suggested that Ivanisevic had recovered his mischievous approach to the game after his Wimbledon disappointment. "It took a long time to try to forget about it," he said. "Pictures kept coming back."

Although Ivanisevic has yet to win an American tournament, he is optimistic of making an impact here. "I'm playing good, the court is playing faster, and anything is possible," he said. "Last time I won in the first round I reached the semis."

Drivers query lack of safety car Mansell's mayhem day

MOTOR RACING
BY DERICK ALLSOP

A BELGIAN Grand Prix of unsurpassed drama confirmed the improbable emergence of a compelling spectacle and a new force in the sport from deceptively barren beginnings. Damon Hill's victory, a breakthrough for Jordan, eased the fears of Formula One's promoters that the championship would prove a cakewalk for McLaren-Mercedes, but it was the safety of drivers in the appalling conditions at Spa-Francorchamps that dominated thoughts in the aftermath of the race.

Several teams questioned why the race began and was allowed to continue for long periods without a safety car when drivers were racing at high speeds with no visibility.

"You have to question the safety issues," said Benetton's chief executive, Dave Richards, whose drivers, Giancarlo

Fisichella and Alexander Wurz, failed to finish due to accidents.

"Most of the incidents were cars running into the back of each other because they were just not visible through the spray. I am just thankful nobody was seriously hurt."

Wurz, who hit McLaren's David Coulthard soon after the restart, believed the original race - when he destroyed his Benetton - should have begun under the safety car. "The first crash was really scary," he said. Fisichella, whose car caught fire after a collision, said the safety car should have been brought out much earlier in the restarted race as the accidents continued.

The Italian was backed up by Hill, who survived a near-miss at the start to score his first win for nearly two years.

"I have concerns about this circuit when it's wet, and when it's dry. It is a very high-speed circuit," said Hill. "All I know is that at times I was going at around 160mph and I could

see nothing in front of my face. The conditions made it very difficult and the safety car issue will have to be looked at."

But Hill would acknowledge that the conditions helped his cause. Mika Hakkinen and McLaren-Mercedes made a commanding start to the season and in truth they still have the best car and looked well placed to win after their performance in the dry in practice.

Ferrari, and Michael Schumacher in particular, have managed to challenge them, and gradually a chasing pack has got close enough to take advantage of any mishap.

However, both the championship protagonists were victims of the mayhem, leaving the door open for the pack. But it was Benetton, the first of the year's pursuers to capitalise, or Williams, who joined the hunt more recently. It was Jordan and Hill, the team and driver seemingly pedalling backwards in the first half of the season.

Their ascendancy is one of the stories of this season. Hill's victory, ahead of team-mate Ralf Schumacher, may have been presented by good fortune, but it was made possible by the momentum generated over the previous four grands prix. The car-engine package has been improved beyond recognition and Hill, outgunned by his young partner and stripped of confidence in the earlier races, has rediscovered the pace and rhythm that earned him the championship, two years ago, with Williams.

Hill has contended all along he still has it in him to win races and contest another title. He is expected to sign a £3.5m contract with Jordan for next year before the Italian Grand Prix at Monza on Sunday week and is already canvassing support for the team cause.

"We have to make sure we exploit this success. It's going to be difficult to beat the likes of Ferrari and McLaren but that

has to be our objective. Eddie wants more sponsorship so that we have the means to compete with the big guys," he said, praising the work of all who have strived so hard to improve the car and the engine.

Ralf Schumacher was a conspicuously reluctant reveller here, admitting he was not happy to be restrained from racing Hill. He accepted that instruction as professional good sense, but it did nothing to diminish his determination to leave the team and join Williams.

His big brother, Michael, was still less amused at being out of the back of David Coulthard's McLaren when his mastery of the wet promised another win and a three-point lead in the championship.

Schumacher's confrontation with Coulthard, accusing the Scot of deliberately slowing and trying to kill him, will serve to further hype the show at Monza - no matter that the stewards threw out Ferrari's protests.

BY NICK PHILLIPS
at Brands Hatch

NIGEL MANSSELL'S touring car career took another dive yesterday as he made it four crashes in five races in front of a record crowd of 40,000 at Brands Hatch.

There was also echoes of Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix as the British Touring Car Championship title rivals, Richard Rydell and Anthony Reid, almost came to blows in an angry post-race confrontation.

Mansell only made it to the exit of the second corner in the first of the day's two BTCC rounds, before coming out worst in a typical bout of first-lap fender-bending and crashing heavily. Then in the second race he went through a catalogue of disasters before a run-in with the Top Gear television presenter Tiff Needell preceded another less violent shunt at almost exactly the same spot. Mansell, however, still man-

aged to put a brave face on it all, blaming both crashes on other drivers and saying: "It's actually been a good day. I made a great start in the first race and it's been a great learning experience."

The regulars did more than their best to entertain the crowd, too. Reid won the sprint race at a canter, leading from start to finish in the Nissan, chased by James Thompson in the Honda.

The second, feature, race was much more dramatic. Rydell led from the green lights, chased by Reid and a gang of Renaults and Nissans. From the start Reid harassed Rydell, dodging about and lunging towards the Volvo time and again. Eventually there was contact when Reid hit the back of Rydell's car at the Druids hairpin. This time Rydell came off best, staying ahead while Reid ran wide (he later accused Rydell of deliberately slowing him and forcing him off-line). Reid was

immediately passed by Thompson, Alain Menu and Jason Plato in the second Renault.

Reid embarked on a great comeback drive into second place and closed to within half a second of Rydell. That is how it stayed until the closing stages, when Reid mounted an attack at Druids. This time it was Rydell who came off worst and Reid moved into a lead he held to the flag. After the race officials deemed Reid to have gained an unfair advantage, penalised him by two seconds and awarded the race to Rydell.

Before that happened, the normally-placid Rydell had leapt from his Volvo, marched over to Reid and grabbed him. "I was not very happy. There's a lot of adrenaline flowing and I had to tell him what I thought," said the Swede, whose championship lead is looking vulnerable in the face of Reid's late-season push. Menu is still in touch in third place.

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IOC tries to placate Spain in testing row

DRUGS IN SPORT

THE INTERNATIONAL Olympic Committee backed away from controversial comments by the chairman of their medical commission, Prince Alexandre de Merode, by saying yesterday that the "progress in Spanish sport has nothing to do with doping".

The IOC made the statement in a press release following a meeting on Sunday between the IOC and Spanish sports officials to clear the air over de Merode's comments that Spain had been lax in its approach to doping.

An incensed Spanish Olympic Committee had been calling for de Merode's resign-

ation ever since he said in an interview that "in Spain, there has for a long time been a tendency towards doping".

De Merode attempted to clarify his remarks at an emergency meeting of the IOC Executive Board on 20 August to discuss doping issues, saying that he had used Spain only as an example because IOC pres-

ident, Juan Antonio Samaranch, is Spanish.

The explanation, however, failed to satisfy Spanish sports officials, prompting Samaranch to arrange a meeting to defuse the controversy. After the IOC pointed out that a large number of doping tests had been carried out in Spain - 7,000 in 1997 and 5,000 so far this year.

ON SATURDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 29/8/98. The winning numbers: 10, 12, 37, 42, 44, 45. Bonus number: 20.

Total Sales: £54,949,980. Prize Fund: £24,727,491 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 8 (Jackpot)	3	£2,647,377	£7,942,131
Match 5 plus bonus ball	33	£222,157	£2,443,727
Match 5	577	£2,647	£1,527,319
Match 4	44,392	£75	£3,329,400
Match 3	945,418	£10	£9,454,180
TOTALS	990,399		£24,696,737

Total Sales including Instanta and Wednesday Draw: £56,436,457.

Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £28,000,000.

Breakage (prizes awarded down to nearest £1) £30,754.

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Survival of fittest awaits Ashes squad

BY DEBBIE PRINGLE

ACCORDING to the spin doctors of their tourist board, Australia is a pleasant country of barbecues, beaches and cuddly koalas. For the 17 members of England's cricket team announced this morning at Lord's the reality will be quite different and several months of hardship await, particularly if Shane Warne is fit enough to do some spinning of his own.

Bar the brutal West Indies tour of the 1980s, an Ashes tour Down Under is the toughest of them all. This winter England face four months of hard ground, hard travelling and even harder opposition. Win or lose, it will be an endurance

test that will stretch and strain both body and will.

For that reason England need players of uncompromising attitude. There is, as the coach David Lloyd has already pointed out, no room for "fifty characters". Because this tour does not have a lengthy acclimatisation period—only three first-class matches before the first two Tests, which are back to back and 2,000 miles apart—England must identify their most likely 11 in time for the tour opener in Perth on 31 October.

Providing Graham Thorpe has fully recovered from the operation to remove a cyst from his back the top six batsmen pick themselves, though Mark Ramprakash will have come under recent pressure.

As the tour is long, England are planning to take a reserve wicket-keeper rather than a makeshift. This means only one spare batting place remains. Barring a volte-face from the selectors and the inclusion of Nick Knight the berth, at least on the evidence of this Test, will probably go to John Crawley rather than Graeme Hick, despite the former's open distaste of touring.

The plight of Hick, who averaged almost 42 on the last tour of Australia, is a difficult one. As a player, Hick's supporters and detractors virtually cancel each other out. If the selectors want Hick perhaps it should be at the expense of Ramprakash, whose batting since his marvellous century in

Barbados is once more tending towards inertia.

Alec Stewart's understudy as wicketkeeper will fall to either Lancashire's Warren Hegg or Paul Nixon of Leicestershire. Due to the tenacity of Jack Russell both have been in the background a long time, though Hegg did tour Australia with the England A team a few winters back. However, as the pair are capable batsmen it is not inconceivable at some stage, especially if England gamble on starting with Ben Hollis as the all-rounder, that Stewart could relinquish the gloves and bat the keeper at No 7.

Given that it is the selectors' intention to take a young bowler as 17th man—a position that will prob-

ably fall to Surrey's Alex Tudor rather than Durham's Stephen Harrison—only one of the five pace bowling places requires argument.

Notwithstanding injury and, providing they play a spinner, England's starting line-up will be permed from Darren Gough, Angus Fraser, Dominic Cork and Alan Mullally—which leaves Dean Headley, Ed Gidkins or the perennially unfashionable Andy Caddick in reserve.

Headley, who bowled well in Australia on a recent A tour, is probably favourite, while Caddick troubled the Australian run-machine, Steve Waugh, more than anyone last summer with his high action.

Partnering Robert Croft with another spinner is not nearly so

straightforward. In the wake of Ian Salisbury's timid performance in the last three Tests, it looks as if Phil Tufnell, a disappointment since the Oval Test last year, will be selected by default. Australia, too, have a dearth of quality spinners, though not as serious a shortage as England, who have 12 more first-class sides.

If Tufnell does go, he will not be able to resort so easily to his favoured defensive measure of bowling over the wicket into the rough. The ICC have brought in a new regulation, giving the umpires power to call wide in such circumstances, and if England plan to use their spinners mainly as a defensive measure, they may be better off tak-

ing the more level-headed and scuffed back to safety Adams, perhaps assuming that Rao would do the decent thing, charged on.

Rao then forged the 97-run partnership with Newell that cemented Sussex's recovery. It was ended by Davies, who found Rao's inside edge with his second ball. But Newell still had work to do and formed a new alliance with the tall all-rounder Robin Martin-Jenkins.

Matthew Maynard's tactic of mostly sticking with his pace quartet of Parkin, Davies, Dale and Darren Thomas was beginning to resemble a one-note orchestra when Dale held one back and Newell looped the ball to extra cover.

Eleven fours and a brace of sixes confirmed Newell's positive attitude to both his and his team's recovery, a process that was continued by Martin-Jenkins, who notched a career-best score before falling in the final over.

Lloyd insult just adds to the injury

DAVID LLOYD, the England coach, has shown yet again that he is a dreadful loser. When Muttiah Muralitharan took the first two England wickets on Sunday evening and turned the ball a long way, it was clear that there was every chance that he would win this Test match.

At the press conference at the end of the fourth day, Lloyd made a thinly-veiled accusation about the legality of Muralitharan's action. He had put the excuse in place in case England lost and it was all done gracefully that it took one back to Bulawayo in Zimbabwe before Christmas in 1996.

England had failed to win the first Test then and at the end the scores were level and England had wickets in hand. Lloyd's catchphrase then was: "We murdered 'em", which he shouted, sometimes with the minimum of charm, at anyone he encountered immediately after the game was over.

He appears to be unable to control himself when England are on the receiving end of it. His remarks now have forced the Sri Lanka board to issue a statement that it has complained to the ECB. Thilanga Samarapala, the president of the Sri Lanka board, who made the statement, reiterated that Muralitharan's action has been cleared after a close examination by the ICC. It is a matter of fact that he has a double-jointed wrist and that there is an 11 degree deformity in his right elbow, which he can not straighten.

In the circumstances, Lloyd has let himself and the England team down by not being able to control himself. How much better it would have been for him to have com-



HENRY BLOFELD
AT THE OVAL

plained quietly through the official channels. Instead of which he has drawn attention to himself and the side and he has been seen to have acted as a cry baby. One finds it hard to believe that, in these days of super slow-motion cameras, the ICC has not reached the right decision about Muralitharan's action.

After Sri Lanka's complaint, the ECB will surely have to take action over Lloyd's outburst. He received a substantial slap on the wrist after the Zimbabwean affair and the authorities will now have to decide between a yellow and a red card.

One undoubted side effect, judging from the response that has apparently come over this from Australia, is that the incident will be exploited in the full during the England tour. Lloyd will realise then that he has made a rod for his own back and, sadly, one for the side's as well. Why does he not think before launching into these outbursts, which can only be counter-productive?



Muttiah Muralitharan bowls to England's Darren Gough at The Oval yesterday

David Ashdown

Newell replies in the positive

BY JOHN COLLIS
At Hove

Sussex 318-8 v Glamorgan

AFTER a shaky prelude, Sussex staged a revival yesterday thanks to two bit-part players in this season's Championship cast. Both Keith Newell and Rajesh Rao played in the early games before being consigned to the second XI and they have only recently returned to the fray.

In the first hour the Glamorgan opening bowlers, Owen Parkin and Andrew Davies, found fire and movement in a greenish wicket, reducing the home side to 20 for 3 before the Sussex captain, Chris Adams, orchestrated a recovery. As the early juice burned out of the grass he began to punch the ball up and down the Hove hill with Rao in respectful support.

But respect suddenly ceased just before lunch when Rao called his captain for a tight sin-

gle, changed his mind and scuttled back to safety Adams, perhaps assuming that Rao would do the decent thing, charged on. Rao then forged the 97-run partnership with Newell that cemented Sussex's recovery. It was ended by Davies, who found Rao's inside edge with his second ball. But Newell still had work to do and formed a new alliance with the tall all-rounder Robin Martin-Jenkins.

Matthew Maynard's tactic of mostly sticking with his pace quartet of Parkin, Davies, Dale and Darren Thomas was beginning to resemble a one-note orchestra when Dale held one back and Newell looped the ball to extra cover.

Eleven fours and a brace of sixes confirmed Newell's positive attitude to both his and his team's recovery, a process that was continued by Martin-Jenkins, who notched a career-best score before falling in the final over.

Muttiah 'very proud'

MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN was not surprised by his achievement after twice wrecking England's batting to set up the 10-wicket victory for Sri Lanka at The Oval.

The feats of the Surrey finger-spinner Sajjan Masangik on his home ground this season had already convinced Muralitharan that there would be plenty of wickets for him, too. "I thought beforehand when Sajjan was taking a lot of wickets here it would help me as well. I am very proud. Before I came here my ambition was to take five wickets in an innings in a Test match—so I thought I did quite well here," he said. The off-spinner's captain Arjuna Ranatunga and his oppo-

site number, Alec Stewart, hailed Muralitharan's outstanding performance.

"He is very difficult to play. You can never get on top of him. A lot of spinners you can use your feet or work around—but he is something special," said Stewart—the only England player not to lose his wicket to Muralitharan in the Test.

Muralitharan, however, was merely confirming his captain's expectations. "Murali is the main man. I have always rated him very, very highly and still think he is the best off-spinner in the world. We know he can spin it anywhere in the world, but he was really impressive in the way he was turning it," Ranatunga said.

RACING RESULTS

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Parlour games strictly limited

Arsenal midfielder drinks at the right time as he dreams of a career to remember. By Norman Fox

RAY PARLOUR reckons that Arsenal's manager, Arsène Wenger (who always gives the impression of having just finished a thesis on something a lot more serious than the merits of a flat back four) is a "great guy with a great sense of humour".

Well, he would. After all, Wenger has kept him in the team in spite of all Highbury's foreign imports. But Parlour adds that it is Wenger who has also kept him in the reckoning for England, with whom he is training again this week.

The summer has been lonely for Arsenal's once unruly midfielder. Omitted from Glenn Hoddle's World Cup squad, he just watched the games on television "getting involved, but not getting involved, if you see what I mean". In the past when he and Tony Adams used to drink without thought of tomorrow, he would have used Hoddle's rejection as an excuse for excess. This year, mainly, he says, because of Wenger's quiet influence, he simply kept fit and optimistic. Parlour admits that at times being a senior Arsenal player without an international cap is

a solitary state. "Sometimes when there's a lot of international games on, I go into training and there's only about three of us left and about nine coaches. You feel a bit left out, but all you can do is play well for Arsenal and get recognised by England."

Although 25, and realistically talking of only winning a regular England place if some of the established men are injured, he says he is still desperately keen not to get to 45 "and look back on a career of 'maybe I could have done this or I could have done that'". Maybe a lot of people would be delighted to look back and remember being part of an Arsenal double-winning season, never mind not going to the World Cup? "Yes, you can't ask for much more than that. We all know it's going to be hard this season to follow that, but last season was good for me. When a lot of new players came in it was difficult to know where I stood. It was important to play well enough to make it hard for the new manager to leave me out."

Parlour was impressed that Wenger was prepared to ignore old reputations. "Almost as



Arsenal's Ray Parlour sits out yesterday's England training session at Bisham Abbey because of a leg injury

soon as he came in he gave me a new contract - that gave me confidence. Then he kept me in the side. He changed the diets of the players, especially what we eat a couple of days before a game. We know now that we should concentrate on protein. We all feel that much fitter. Over the last two or three

months of last season we could see other teams getting tired. We were still on fire. When you win the double, you have to believe that these things matter." Parlour says that although Wenger insists on a form of training discipline that is dictated by the stopwatch - "no way in the past would we stop a five-

a-side game when it was 1-1 just because time was up" - he's really quite a funny guy. This season Parlour wants to get more involved in goalscoring, but is being asked by Wenger to play a little deeper, which means helping out players who have come back from the World Cup feeling jaded.

Hoddle believes that the World Cup effort will begin to catch up with them in November. That, says Parlour, is another incentive for him to take advantage of his pre-season training, from which they were excused. And has he taken the pledge? "No, I think it's unbelievable what Tony's done to

help himself over the last two years. I still have a drink, but at the right time, that's the difference. I've become a bit more of a connoisseur - I drink wine," he said, exaggerating his Romford accent. He would not say whether that was part of Wenger's dietary recommendation.

Kavanagh shatters stubborn Colchester

STOKE CITY stretched their lead at the top of the Second Division to four points with a 1-0 win at Colchester. But Brian Little's side were made to work hard to maintain their 100 per cent record as the Essex side refused to concede anything in defence.

Colchester's hopes were dashed when Graham Kavanagh scored Stoke's winner 12 minutes from full time.

Fulham are in second place after a 1-1 draw at Oldham. Paul Moody gave Kevin Keegan's side the 50th-minute lead, but Mark Allott equalised for the struggling hosts.

There was plenty of drama at Deepdale, where Preston moved into third place with a 2-0 win over Chesterfield. But the celebrations after goals from Jason Harris (66) and Ryan Kidd (84) were cut short by the sendings-off of Sean Grogan for Preston and Jason Lee for the visitors - both for two bookable offences.

Wycombe Wanderers, struggling at the foot of the table, were grateful for a last-minute equaliser from Danny Bulman after Barry Hayes' 84th-minute goal had appeared to give Bristol Rovers their first away win of the campaign.

Bulman's strike was enough to win the Adams Park club a point after they had lost all four opening matches.

Luton were indebted to Steve Davis for a 3-1 win at Wigan. The defender cleared a Stuart Barlow shot from his own goal line and scored Luton's opener three minutes before the break.

Barlow, the former Everton striker, netted a 62nd-minute equaliser, but two goals in two minutes from Shaun Evers and veteran Phil Gray ensured victory.

Macclesfield continue to struggle at the foot of the table. Ian Hendon's 30-yard free-kick earned the points for Notts County as Sammy McIlroy's Moss Rose side still search for their first win of the campaign.

The former Chelsea forward Clive Walker became the first man to score 100 League goals and 100 goals in non-League football when he hit Cheltenham Town's opener in the 16th minute of their game against Barrow in the Football Conference yesterday. Cheltenham eventually ran out 4-1 winners.

Rochdale rapped by Rapley

BRENTFORD YESTERDAY went to the top of the Third Division with a 2-1 victory over Rochdale at Griffin Park. Darren Powell scored within 90 seconds, but the visitors were unfortunate not to earn their second away win of the campaign after Isidro Diaz's 17th-minute equaliser.

Rochdale enjoyed most of the possession in the second period but Kevin Rapley's 71st-minute goal sealed the game. Plymouth Argyle leapfrogged over Halifax Town after their 1-0 win over the Shaymen at Home Park. Paul Gibbs' strike three minutes before half-time was sufficient.

Gustavo Di Lella dispatched Hull to their third defeat of the season with the only goal of the match at Hartlepool, sending the home side into fifth place.

Barnet jumped 11 places after their 2-0 victory at Shrewsbury Goals from Billy Manuel and Ken Charley lifted the club off the foot of the table. Scunthorpe moved up to sixth after defeating Swansea at Vetch Field. Julian Alsop had set up the home side for only their second win of the season but late goals from John Eyre (penalty) and Jamie Forrester turned the tide.

Brighton moved into the top half of the table thanks to their regular goalscorers Jeff Minton and Gary Hart, who also scored on Saturday. Wayne Bullimore struck an 89th minute goal for Scarborough but it was too late.

Jimmy Quinn struck twice in two minutes in the first half for Peterborough to set up a 4-1 win over Exeter, who had taken the lead through Darren Rowbotham in the 19th minute at London Road. Leon McKenzie and Andy Edwards added the icing.

Darlington notched their first home win of the season in the 3-0 win over Cardiff. Darren Roberts scored twice and Jason De Vos sealed the points.

Platt sets the right example

HOWARD WILKINSON has called for more ex-England players to be involved in coaching the country's youth sides. Wilkinson, the Football Association technical director, made his plea after watching David Platt put the England Under-18s through their paces in preparation for tomorrow's friendly against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin.

He said: "If you look at the last 20 years there have been a lot of internationals who have left the game when they could be using their experience to help out."

"I'm not saying there should be one big, jolly family here but there are a lot of people that could help out at different levels and offer their experience. They could then take that experience and use it maybe in club football, and that would help the English game."

"I haven't got anything against Arsène Wenger and Ruud Gullit, but I would rather see David Platt at Newcastle and Alan Shearer at Chelsea coaching English sides."

Tomorrow's encounter sees Wilkinson's side take on the European Under-18 champions on their own turf.

Rijkaard revealed as the new Dutch national coach

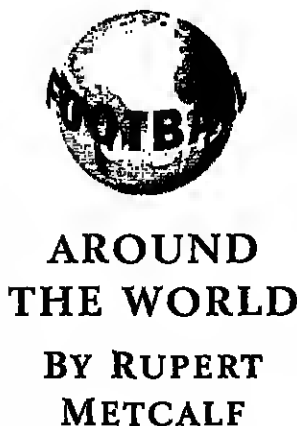
NETHERLANDS

JUST LIKE Ruud Gullit, his former colleague in the great Dutch national team of the 1980s, Frank Rijkaard is this week taking on what may well be the greatest challenge of his career.

While Gullit has the responsibility of restoring the on-field reputation of Newcastle United, Rijkaard has the fortunes of more than just a club side to worry about. Yesterday the former Milan and Ajax midfielder was named as the new coach of the Dutch national team.

It is the 35-year-old Rijkaard's first coaching appointment. Since his retirement from playing in 1995 he has spent more time building up a business trading in ladies' underwear than working in football. He only returned to the game to work as an assistant to his predecessor as national coach, Guus Hiddink (who has moved on to take charge of Real Madrid), at this year's World Cup in France.

Rijkaard will coach the side until the European Championship in 2000 in Belgium and the Netherlands, with an option to



extend his contract for another two years. Johan Neeskens, 46, will be his assistant. He was also one of Hiddink's assistants in France, where the team reached the World Cup semi-finals.

is believed to have approached Johan Cruyff and the former Celtic manager, Wim Jansen, before opting for Rijkaard.

SPAIN

BARCELONA MANAGED to sign the former Ajax striker Patrick Kluivert, a summer transfer target for both Arsenal and Manchester United, from Milan before Friday's Spanish League transfer deadline, but they failed to land the two Dutch internationals they have been pursuing all summer.

Louis van Gaal, the former Ajax coach now in charge at Barcelona, has been chasing the De Boer brothers, Frank and Ronald, but has been unable to persuade the Amsterdam club to release them from their long-term contracts.

However, it may not be long before the brothers join the Catalan side. There is a transfer window in the Spanish season in December, and on Sunday Frank de Boer said: "There are two possible solutions. Either we play with Ajax until December and then go to Barcelona, or we stay at Ajax the whole season and then

start next year with Barcelona. It's just a matter of time."

BRAZIL

THE VETERAN striker Romario is not having a happy season. His miserable run of form continued when he missed an easy chance during Flamengo's 1-1 draw with their bitter rivals, Vasco da Gama, in a Brazilian league fixture on Sunday and was jeered off the pitch for the third time running.

Romario fired the ball straight at Vasco's goalkeeper Carlos Germano from point-blank range in the 83rd minute, missing a golden opportunity to give his struggling side a win over Vasco. Last weekend he missed a penalty, and on Wednesday he was also booed after another poor performance.

"I would have jeered as well, because I didn't play well," Romario admitted prior to Sunday's game. He denied that he was about to retire, though, and insisted he intends to play for another four years. "I feel like a wounded lion, but the claws are still sharp and they will appear again," the injury-prone 32-year-old said.

BY SIMON BUCKLAND

CRAIG BROWN, the Scotland coach, indicated yesterday that Ally McCoist could start Saturday's international against Lithuania. The 35-year-old forced himself into the squad for the opening Euro 2000 qualifying match with a hat-trick for Kilmarnock against Heart of Midlothian on Sunday.

Having selected only 21 players Brown had a place to fill in the party - and McCoist was swiftly invited on Sunday night, such is Brown's concern at his shortage of firepower.

Now there is the real prospect of McCoist joining Kevin Gallacher from the outset in Vilnius with Brown tempted to opt for the in-form veteran with 59 caps and 19 international goals to his name.

The national coach said: "I expect Lithuania to defend deep, much as Hearts did on Sunday, and to my mind that will suit Ally's game. I would honestly say he is as good, if not better, than those other players under consideration for the front role."

With McCoist's former Ibrox colleague Gordon Durie ruled out because of ankle ligament

damage, McCoist has few rivals in attack.

Brown rates the Lithuanians highly, suggesting they are the best of the Baltic states, and, by his own admission, McCoist could prove the "quick fix" he needs to do the job required.

Brown followed the inclusion of McCoist with a further change yesterday, this time forced upon him because of injuries.

Blackburn's Billy McKinnay and David Hopkin, of Leeds, have withdrawn from the travelling group because of fitness problems. That has prompted Brown to promote Rangers' 20-year-old midfielder Barry Ferguson from the Under-21 squad.

Ferguson was instrumental in Rangers' emphatic 4-0 win against St Johnstone on Saturday. Brown said: "Barry was very close to being selected in the original squad, although I didn't think he would start the game as we had experienced provision in McKinnay and Hopkin."

"The Under-21 team have a difficult game and obviously want to qualify, so their coach, Tommy Craig, will be tearing his hair out at losing Barry."

Lowes rises above the rest

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Bradford	24
Castleford	3

THE PRESSURE is largely off Bradford when it comes to qualifying for the top five play-off, but yesterday they looked well short of the form required to retain their Super League title in a hard-fought victory.

The ridiculously early kick-off time, to suit television, saw this contest billed as "High Noon" but it rarely rose above a low standard, with the Bradford hooker, James Lowes, the one notable exception.

It was Lowes' break, so typical of much of his best work last season, that set up Stuart Spruce's try in the eighth minute. That, along with three Steve McNamara goals, gave the Bulls the perfect start and, had they been anything like

their old selves, they would have made short work of a moderate Castleford side.

Even with their latest reinforcement, Harvey Howard, in their line-up, however, Bradford made hard work of what should have been a routine win.

Castleford's handling was deplorable in the early stages, but they were allowed to settle into the game and a modicum of grit and determination were sufficient to bring them right back into contention.

A penalty from Danny Orr got them moving and then Spruce and John Scates both failed to clear Mike Ford's kick and Orr arrived to claim a try, which he converted himself to bring Cas within two points.

A penalty against Dean Sampson, for holding down Bernard Dwyer, gave McNamara his 600th point for the club, but Castleford had their chances early in the second half to stretch Bradford

out wide and to wipe out their lead.

They also fired up their defence sufficiently to keep the Bulls' attacking incursions, particularly from the lively Tevita Valkona, at bay. For 25 minutes, the match was there to be won.

But then another McNamara penalty, this time awarded against Lee Harland for holding on to Spruce, stretched Bradford's lead and a mistake by Michael Smith enabled the Bulls to draw clear for what was ultimately a fluttering win.

When Smith tried to pass out of the tackle, Lowes picked up the loose ball and Graeme Bradley's pass sent Scates crashing over in the corner. McNamara this time missing the target with his conversion attempt.

With six minutes to play, Lowes produced another reprieve of the repertoire that

brought Bradford so many points during their unstoppable march last year. Apparently held near the line, the hooker wrestled his way out of the tackle and forced his way over. McNamara's sixth goal completing the scoring.

The win puts Bradford four points ahead of London and Sheffield in fifth place and only a major disaster can stop them qualifying for the play-offs now. It will take a far more convincing performance than this to take them any further, though, and Matthew Elliott, their coach, will know that there is much work to be done at Odsal if they are to have any chance of hanging on to their crown.

Bradford: Spruce, Valkona, McNamara, Bradley, Scates, Paul, Deacon, McDermott, Lowes, Harland, Forsyth, Dwyer, McNamara, Substitution: Smith, Fielden, Howard, Donaghy, Ekeola, Castleford: Orr, Ford, Sampson, Russell, McKel, Harland, Smith, Vowles, Substitutions: Chapman, Schick, Sykes, Flowers. Referee: S. Cummings (Widnes).

Peters wins Ultra title

SAILING

BY STUART ALEXANDER

WITH A race to spare, Russell Peters won the 1998 Ultra 30 Grand Prix circuit in Guernsey yesterday. Only two people have won the Ultra series in its nine-year history, Lawrie Smith having taken all the other titles, except in 1995, when Peters pipped him for the only time.

This year there have been only three regattas, the others at Portsmouth and Cardiff, and Smith has been absent, sojourning in Ireland after driving Silk Cut in the last Whitbread Race.

So Peters, a dinghy champion in Fireflies International 14s and team racing, was able to get DES back in front in a year which has seen the introduction of wire trapezes for all nine of the crew, in addition to racks on which to lean out.

"Nine on a wire has really

livened things up," said Peters in St Peter Port yesterday. "Everyone had sorted out how to sail these difficult boats and this provided a new dimension. Not least, the closing speeds are much faster and quicker thinking is required. It looks spectacular on television, but it's a bit frightening and more difficult for the helmsman."

"It's been a very good year, very nice to win, and we look forward to defending our title next year, when there should be more venues, including at least one abroad," he added.

In second place was Glyn Charles, who captained United Airlines and was vying for the overall lead until the last day, when his chances were blown away a collision with Eddie Warden Owen in Hoya. Charles was disqualified from that race but held on to his silver medal slot in a tie-breaker with Kevin Sprout, who was making a late run in Henri Lloyd.

In an angry broadside against the New Zealand management of the 2000 America's Cup, the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) president Paul Henderson said yesterday: "It has steered the ISAF's resolve with regard to the America's Cup and the fact that they [the AC competitors] must support the broad base of racing sailing by funding the services the ISAF provide."

Heedersoo is particularly upset by a statement from Team New Zealand's director, Tom Schnackenberg, saying that the America's Cup should charge the ISAF for promoting sailing. The ISAF president feels a confrontation over who runs the sport, as happened in golf, is "fast approaching" and suggests the ISAF might seek to ban competitors from taking part in other events, which includes the demand for about \$65,000 per AC syndicate to be paid to the ISAF, if the issue is not settled.

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First Division: Stockport fight back from two down ■ Mills and Moore lift Bradford ■ West Brom crash to earth

Angell dares to tread on Wolves' toes

By Phil Shaw

Wolverhampton Wanderers 2
Stockport County 2

WOLVES PASSED up the opportunity to open a two-point lead at the First Division's summit yesterday, relinquishing both a two-goal advantage and their 100 per cent record when Brett Angell struck twice to secure the draw Stockport deserved.

In a fractious match, long on incident but short of anything resembling Premiership quality, Wolves seemed to be on course for a fifth consecutive win when Fernando Gomez added to

Dean Richards' early goal. Angell, pouncing either side of half-time, had different ideas. Stockport were the last visitors to win at Molineux, 4-3 in April, but the positive way Wolves set about their task suggested they would achieve the victory which would ensure their best start for 49 years without too much discomfort. With hindsight, Mike Flynn's shot against the home crossbar after a fourth-minute corner was a symptom of the defensive fallibility that would cost Wolves dear. Yet it was swiftly forgotten as they swept forward to score three minutes later. Carlo Nash

misjudged the flight of Steve Froggatt's chipped shot, which came back off the bar for Richards to drive his first League goal in 19 months.

Nash was less culpable when Wolves went further ahead in the 38th minute, even though he was beaten from 25 yards out. Stockport only half-cleared an attack, whereupon the 33-year-old Fernando Gomez chested the ball down and volleyed a spectacular first goal since arriving on a free transfer from Valencia.

Stockport played a three-man attack, relying heavily on the accuracy of Paul Cook from set-pieces. The former Molineux midfielder delivered the 44th-minute free kick from which Angell, with a glancing header, became the first player to find Wolves' net this season.

Mike Stowell, unconvinced under pressure, was beaten again eight minutes into the second half. Ian Moore crossed and Angell stole in front of Steve Sedgley to bury the equaliser.

Temper frayed in the final stages, with both Flynn and Steve Bull lucky to escape with yellow cards. Wolves might have taken the points in stoppage time, when Nash made a double save from Richards and David Connolly, but their next home game, against first-placed Sunderland, may tell us more about their promotion potential. Wolverhampton Wanderers (5-2-1; 15pts, 39th); Stockport County (5-2-1; 15pts, 39th); Wolves (4-3-1; 12pts, 40th); Middlesbrough (4-3-1; 12pts, 41st); Leeds (4-3-1; 12pts, 42nd); Sheffield Wednesday (4-3-1; 12pts, 43rd); Bolton (4-3-1; 12pts, 44th); Blackburn (4-3-1; 12pts, 45th); Norwich (4-3-1; 12pts, 46th); Ipswich (4-3-1; 12pts, 47th); Bury (4-3-1; 12pts, 48th); Luton (4-3-1; 12pts, 49th); Barnsley (4-3-1; 12pts, 50th); Millwall (4-3-1; 12pts, 51st); Notts County (4-3-1; 12pts, 52nd); Rotherham (4-3-1; 12pts, 53rd); Shrewsbury (4-3-1; 12pts, 54th); Exeter (4-3-1; 12pts, 55th); Gillingham (4-3-1; 12pts, 56th); Boreham Wood (4-3-1; 12pts, 57th); Woking (4-3-1; 12pts, 58th); Maidstone (4-3-1; 12pts, 59th); Stevenage (4-3-1; 12pts, 60th); Hemel Hempstead (4-3-1; 12pts, 61st); Slough (4-3-1; 12pts, 62nd); Dagenham (4-3-1; 12pts, 63rd); Ebbsfleet (4-3-1; 12pts, 64th); Wealdstone (4-3-1; 12pts, 65th); Havering (4-3-1; 12pts, 66th); Enfield (4-3-1; 12pts, 67th); Barnet (4-3-1; 12pts, 68th); 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SPORT

SURREY FRINGE ON TOP P16 • PARLOUR'S NEW GAME P21

Test match: Sri Lanka's 16-wicket off-spinner in 'a different league' as rout of England rewrites the record books

Muralitharan the magnificent

BY DEREK PRINGLE
at The OvalEngland 445 and 181
Sri Lanka 591 and 37-0
Sri Lanka win by 10 wickets

MUTTHIAH MURALITHARAN, Sri Lanka's freakish off-spinner, yesterday bowled his way into the history books and his team to a 10-wicket victory. In dismissing England for 181 with figures of 9 for 65, Murali finished with match figures of 16 for 220, the fifth best bowling analysis of all time and the best ever at The Oval, beating the efforts of the Demon Spofforth, who took 14 for 90 in 1882.

Considering the barbs slung at him over the legitimacy of his unusual action – raised again by innuendo via England's coach, David Lloyd – the achievement was simply gargantuan. Certainly the off-spinner himself thought so, and he was quick to ask the umpire, David Shepherd, for the ball, which he immediately placed in a plastic wrapper for preservation.

There is a saying in Muralitharan's home town that roughly translates: "When you take the kid from Kandy, he takes candy from the kids." England may not have played like spoilt children but Lloyd certainly has. People have always had their suspicions over the bowling actions of others, but when you are coming to a sorry end, it is wise enough to keep them to yourself. Lloyd may find himself up before his own board.

Alec Stewart, disappointed after the euphoria over the series win against South Africa was more gracious over the feat. "I play here for Surrey with Saqlain Mushtaq, who is a magnificent bowler," he said. "But this bloke is in a different league."

What makes him unique among finger spinners is the speed and flexibility of his wrist. If his action looks suspect it is because he has a deformed elbow, a feature which runs in the family. It is set at 11 degrees and is unable to straighten. Mainly it is the wrist though that allows him to get massive rotation on the ball, a gift that allows him to produce a lethal combination of spin, bounce and dip.

Relying so heavily on one man can have its problems,



Sri Lanka's match-winner Muttiah Muralitharan celebrates as he clean-bowls England's John Crawley yesterday – one of his nine second-innings victims at The Oval

David Ashdown

though. As Murali's fingers tired, England looked as if they might save the match after Mark Ramprakash and Darren Gough added 53 for the ninth wicket. Yet as memories of Old Trafford loomed, Murali had Ramprakash well taken at short leg off bat and pad for 42, a vigil that lasted just over four hours. With Gough bowled round his legs sweeping an over later, the issue was settled with England only 35 on. Sanath Jayasuriya and Marven Atapathu took only five overs to knock them off.

Other milestones were set as well, though they all seemed to belong to Murali. For instance, when he removed Dominic Cork, he reached 200 wickets, 68 of them this year. As this is his 42nd Test, he is taking them at the same rate as Shane Warne. As expected, Sri Lanka began the final day by bowling Murali

from the Vauxhall End, where he immediately extracted some burn. Having successfully negotiated him the previous evening, Stewart and Steve James looked comfortable. James' survival was not down to his technique. Planting your foot early and playing round your front foot is no way to play an off-spinner turning the ball several feet, and James finally perished at silly point, caught off pad and bat.

Stewart not always at his best starting against spin, was in fact batting with great aplomb. Quick to use his feet whenever he could, it was ironically his lack of speed out of the blocks, that brought his downfall after Ramprakash called him through for a quick single. Turning the ball to square leg, Ramprakash set off for what looked like a sharp but comfortable single. Unfortunately for the England captain,

the substitute, Upul Chandana, had other ideas. A swift one-handed pick up was followed by an even more impressive throw. With a single stump to aim at, Chandana's direct hit found Stewart desperately telescoped bat 18 inches short.

Faultless or not, no man feels entirely guilt-free after running out his captain and the incident sent Ramprakash, 12 at the time, into *rigor mortis*. When lunch was taken an hour later he had moved to 16, although the significance was somewhat overshadowed by John Crawley's dismissal, bowled by Murali through the gate, just moments earlier.

First ball after lunch and England's prognosis worsened further as Ben Hollis, shuffling hesitantly, was lured first ball. But if replays showed there was a suspicion of bat,

there was no doubt about the dismissal that befell Dominic Cork. Sweeping at Murali, he was brilliantly caught by Romesh Kaluwitharana diving full stretch to his left after the ball popped up off his glove.

A few balls later, Ian Salisbury was lured for the third duck of the innings. Playing back, England's leg-spinner was beaten by one that spun back sharply. If he had an excuse it was that he had not managed to turn one half that distance and he clearly was not expecting it.

The same could be said about England, who, after scoring 445 in their first innings, were beaten comfortably. Brilliantly though Muralitharan bowled, England's biggest failing was to allow Sri Lanka to score at four an over, without breaking sweat.

Henry Blofeld
More cricket, page 19

BEST BOWLING
PERFORMANCES
IN TEST HISTORYMOST WICKETS IN
AN INNINGS

10-53	C Laker	England v Aus	Old Trafford, 1956
9-28	A Laker	England v SA	Johannesburg, 1895-96
9-37	C Laker	England v Australia	Old Trafford, 1956
9-52	J H Waite	NZ v Australia	Brisbane, 1965-66
9-56	Adrian Quill	Pakistan v England	Lahore, 1967-68
9-57	D R Mookerjee	England v SA	Johannesburg, 1913-14
9-67	M Muralitharan	England v S Africa	The Oval, 1998
9-65	M Muralitharan	Sri Lanka v England	The Oval, 1998

MOST WICKETS IN
A MATCH

19-99	C Laker	England v Australia	Old Trafford 1956
17-139	S F Barnes	England v SA	Johannesburg, 1913-14
16-186	M O Hussain	India v West Indies	Kolkata, 1967-68
16-137	R A L. Maslow	Australia v England	Lord's, 1972
16-229	M Muralitharan	Sri Lanka v England	The Oval, 1998

SCOREBOARD FROM THE OVAL

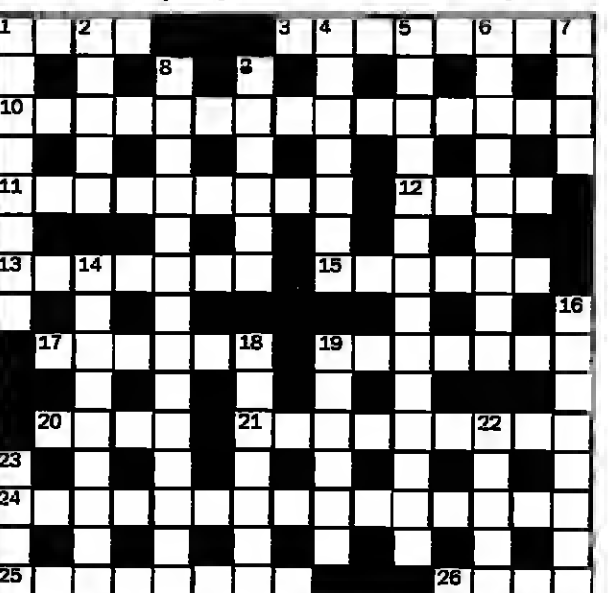
Sri Lanka won toss	England's first innings 445 (P Crawley 150, G A Hill 107, M Ramprakash 53, M Muralitharan 7-155), Sri Lanka's first innings 391 (S Jayasuriya 213, P A de Silva 152, A Ranatunga 51)	England's second innings 181 (overweight: 54 for 2) S P James c Jayawardena b Muralitharan 25 186 min, 150 balls, 1 four	Sri Lanka's second innings 37-0 (overweight: 54 for 2) S P James c Jayawardena b Muralitharan 25 186 min, 150 balls, 1 four
England's first innings 445 (P Crawley 150, G A Hill 107, M Ramprakash 53, M Muralitharan 7-155), Sri Lanka's first innings 391 (S Jayasuriya 213, P A de Silva 152, A Ranatunga 51)	England's second innings 181 (overweight: 54 for 2) S P James c Jayawardena b Muralitharan 25 186 min, 150 balls, 1 four	Sri Lanka's second innings 37-0 (overweight: 54 for 2) S P James c Jayawardena b Muralitharan 25 186 min, 150 balls, 1 four	Sri Lanka's second innings 37-0 (overweight: 54 for 2) S P James c Jayawardena b Muralitharan 25 186 min, 150 balls, 1 four

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3704, Tuesday 1 September

By Aelred

Monday's Solution



DOWN
1 Part of plane has safety device to limit wind blowing up (8)
2 American primary? (5)
3 Organise staple food in Cheshire place (7)
4 Choose artist's buildings to describe daughter's psychological problem (7, 7)
5 Having some idea colic

ACROSS

- In charge of backing centres (4)
- With no charge for delivery? (8)
- Fushiness of fellow in organising Candelmas event (4-11)
- Movement of divine type to disadvantaged quarter (9)
- Friar having adjustment to make garment smaller? (4)
- Greek woman who has secondary issue? (7)
- Sister joining Church of England retains a particular shade of meaning (6)
- Old feast of Latin American mothers (6)
- Left standing apart in marshy land in battle (7)
- Futile one's in the lead (4)
- Against history of course (9)
- Arranging unmortgaged term which entertains Germans at great length (15)
- The German is to charge for mockery (8)
- Throw stones and hide (4)

- Could result from tart substance (5, 4)
- Cause confusion over bananas? (4)
- Factory workers who dislike modern technology? (7-7)
- Woman in army vetted (6)
- A laboratory flower in stone (9)
- Remodelled Sun should be not wanted (8)
- Awful person also has to be restricted by moderate (2-3-2)
- Woman who could make a fit Ma? (6)
- Thus employ soak (5)
- Oath for example by a daughter (4)

Owen facing life in the fast lane

BY GLENN MOORE
Football Correspondent

IT WAS after midnight but long before the dawn, and the Clwyd village of Haverford seemed asleep as Michael Owen arrived back at the family home. Then the dark of the night evaporated in a battery of flashbulbs and the peace was punctured by cries of "Michael, this way Michael".

It was that first night of July, as the photographers pushed forward to capture the hero's return, that Owen realised his life had changed for ever.

Yesterday, amid the relative tranquillity of England's Bisham Abbey training retreat, he reflected that, having aspired to global fame, he had to accept it – but it was taking some getting used to.

"We had been isolated in France so I didn't know quite how big it had become. It was only when I got back from Luton (Aldershot) to find hundreds of photographers outside my house in the early hours that it sunk in," he said.

"You see other people in the papers and think about what it might be like, but you never really know what to expect. It used to be just half a dozen people saying 'hello' if I went out shopping but now it's everybody."

"People say it should be easy but it's not, I can't even go out and buy a shirt any more, I have to go in disguise. But, having always wanted to reach the height of my profession, I will have to adjust."

As his hat-trick at Newcastle on Sunday showed, there has been no sign so far of Owen's form being affected. He will definitely play alongside Alan Shearer in England's opening European Championship qualifying match against Sweden in Stockholm on Saturday, and Glenn Hoddle yesterday admitted that he was rapidly becoming an automatic choice.

"He was sensational on Sunday," said Hoddle after yesterday's training session. "He is the most feared striker in the country at present and if he keeps putting in performances like that he will force me to make him an automatic pick."

Owen, typically, greeted that praise with equilibrium. "It's nice to hear that but there's a lot of good strikers. If Alan Shearer had had the same chances I'm sure he'd have scored a hat-trick."

It was Owen, however, who left St James' Park with the match ball, his third such prize at senior level. The other two are under the bed at home but he is now thinking of finding somewhere more appropriate to keep them.

This could be in his new house, which he hopes will be built in time for him to move into in March. It may need a large post-box, with a side-effect of his new fame the mushrooming of his mail which, in the immediate aftermath of the World Cup, reached a sack a day.

"I already received a lot of

letters from places like Malaysia and Scandinavia, where there is a lot of support for Liverpool," he said, "but now it is from all over the world. I can't read them all so my mum deals with it and I just sign them."

Owen's popularity is such that, despite the devastation he caused, he was still applauded by Newcastle fans on Sunday, just as he had been at Southampton the previous weekend. It was, he agreed, quite a compliment.

Hoddle has more words of praise. "He has done everything right since the World Cup. I'm looking forward to seeing him with Alan (Shearer) this week."

"They have played together but they've not had that much chance to work on it. It is a case of finding a way to get the best from both of them."

Hoddle said that as far as he was concerned Shearer had nothing to prove following Owen's emergence. Incidentally, Owen said he was yet to visit Eileen Drewery, though he was careful not to say anything which might be interpreted as criticism of the faith healer.

Hoddle has minor injury doubts over Ray Parlour (calf), Steve McManaman (ankle) and, most seriously, Rio Ferdinand (groin).

"Ferdinand has had this problem all season and is feeling rather tender," said Hoddle. "At this moment in time I would say there is a doubt about him for Sweden."

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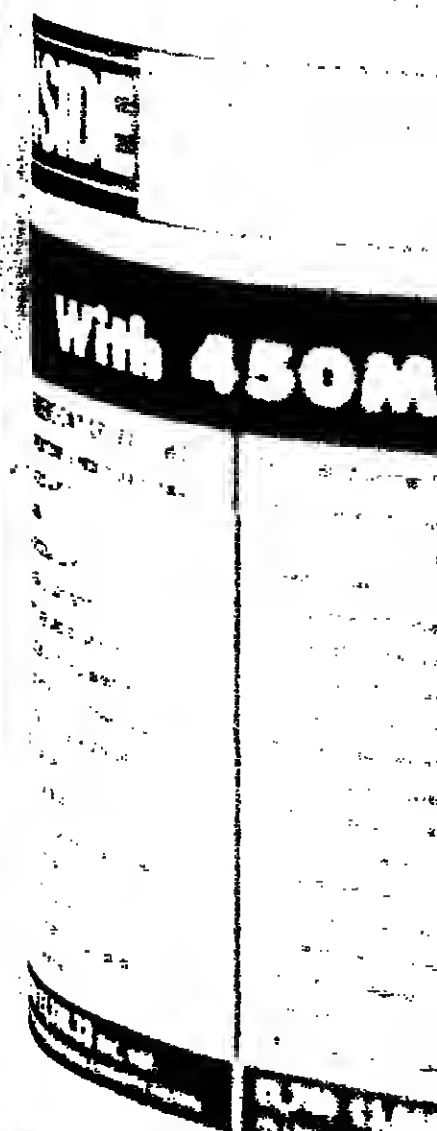
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TUESDAY REVIEW

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It's a disgrace

The vice-consul calls them 'depraved' while tabloids condemn their clubs as 'pornographic'.

Yes, thousands of young Brits on Ibiza are having the time of their lives. By Alister Morgan

The British vice-consul on the Spanish island of Ibiza has resigned – shamed, he says, by the behaviour of young British tourists who go to the island in their thousands to party. “These degenerates are dragging us through the mud,” said 51-year-old Michael Birkett. “These young people are out of control.”

Ten years ago Ibiza's heady mix of sun, sex and dance music inspired visiting English promoters to create a comparable experience in the UK, and modern acid-house was born. In 1998 the UK's club industry continues to decline while Ibiza, boasting the biggest and best venues in the world, attracts more hedonists every year – 85 per cent of them British.

Essentially the same nocturnal activities that take place every weekend in towns and cities across Britain are mirrored on Ibiza, but the Spanish island acts like an amplifier, lending the experience a larger-than-life, open-all-hours quality. Ibiza follows its own, uniquely exaggerated programme. In the UK a Saturday night timetable might read as follows: 8pm, eat dinner; 9.30pm, meet for drink; 11pm, hit nightclub; 4am, get taxi home; sleep until midday.

The Ibiza itinerary requires considerably higher levels of stamina. Midnight, meet for dinner; 12.30am, hit local bars; 2.30am, go to club; 8am, leave club; 9am, go to daytime club; 2pm, go back to hotel; crash until 10pm.

For thousands of clubbers it's a trip worth saving for (seven-day packages start from £140), and worth sleeping on a mate's floor or on the beach for a couple of weeks. It's a place where fellow believers fill the streets and the weekend never ends. But, of course, for others Ibiza represents Sodom and Gomorrah.

Fiona and Tricia from Hastings are both 17 years old and “Ibiza virgins” (the phrase refers to the fact that it's their first time on the island). “My friends came last year and kept saying that this was the best place in the world,” says Tricia. They've pushed their way to the front of the crowd to watch Pete Tong at Café Mambo. The broadcast lasts several hours. They look tired but are still smiling. “This is the best place – the best place in the world!” Fiona agrees with her friend's assessment. “The people here are so friendly, and the clubs are amazing. We've been here two weeks already, so we're making the most of the few days we have left.”

Both girls have boyfriends back in Hastings. They give the impression that the boys' absence hasn't exactly spoiled their holiday. “Tricia's snogged twice as many blokes as me,” says Fiona. “I'm staying faithful – or at least I'm trying to.”

They tell me that they'll be at the infamous Manumission club tonight. Radio 1 are continuing their live broadcasts there. “Watch out for us by the fountains.” That night at Manumission it's impossible to recognise anyone among the 8,000 people inside. With its fire-eaters, escapologists and theatrically dressed ravers, Manumission feels more like a festival than a club. Radio 1 press personnel have been in a panic all day. The *Daily Mail* has run a story about two Manumission promoters and their infamous early-morning porn act.

“They [promoters Mike McKay and Claire Davies] perform depraved acts in front of thousands of strangers,” the *Mail* reveals. “Radio 1 will broadcast a seven-hour marathon of live music from the club. Many might question whether it is an appropriate use

of licence-payers' money to promote an event whose reputation is founded almost entirely on pornography.”

“The *Mail*'s piece was an insidious load of nonsense; they try to hold on to the self-restrained, old-style model of Britain,” says the Radio 1 DJ Judge Jules. He's headlining tonight's gig at Manumission. “If they don't change soon, their readership will eventually die out, because this generation aren't going to believe that bullshit – their values are meaningless to our generation.”

For years Jules was Kiss FM's headline house DJ, before Radio 1 bought him up last year. “It wasn't really a hard decision,” he says. “I didn't join Radio 1 at a time when my music was fighting against the grain. They have a wholehearted belief in the importance of dance music and the associated culture, so there was no hesitation whatsoever.”

Middle England may disapprove, but in fact the essential attraction for most of the British clubbers who flock to Ibiza every summer is familiarity. They know exactly what to expect: English-speaking Spaniards, 24-hour full English breakfast, *The Sun*, copious amounts of alcohol, English DJs, and other Brits.

Even after 10 years, the dance music phenomenon refuses to fade away. The vice-consul may feel shamed by the excesses of sun-drunk youth, but this is now mainstream youth culture. Just to prove it, from broadcasting only about three hours of specialist dance music a week in 1991, Radio 1's current output exceeds 30 hours. And Ibiza is an integral part of the wider youth culture.

Ibiza's increasing popularity persuaded BBC Radio 1 to broadcast live, via ISDN links, from Ibiza for the first time earlier this month. The broadcast ran for three days and nights, featuring more than 35 DJs and live performances. It's not certain how many extra listeners the broadcast attracted, but the venture received energetic criticism from the *Daily Mail*, concerned for the moral safety of the nation's youth. Broadcasting from Ibiza was the logical progression of an ongoing cultural shift, aimed at attracting younger listeners.

As the station's headline DJ, Pete Tong, made his live *Essential Selection* broadcast from Ibiza's Café Mambo, hundreds of young people crowded on to the beach to listen. As the beach stretched away into clear blue sea, the sun beat down on hundreds of dancers. Tong has been coming to Ibiza for around eight years, and made his first broadcast from the island two years ago. He has been instrumental in persuading Auntie to increase its involvement every year.

“Radio 1 didn't really realise what I did, or the im-

portance of the music was able to have, when they hired me in 1991,” says Tong, speaking after his beach broadcast. “I'd spent years travelling the country building up a reputation with the crowd. Specialist presenters must have that respect from the core audience, and now Radio 1 has got the best in the field.”

They wanted to re-justify the existence of the station, and reposition it to take risks and attract younger listeners. Three years ago I said, “If you want to relate to your audience on that level then you should go on holiday with them and participate in their lives outside of the UK.” There's no island in the world like Ibiza. No other place has the same set-up or infrastructure.”

Radio 1's rival station, Kiss FM, is also broadcasting from Ibiza, and also hopes to consolidate its position as a credible dance music station. A generation of clubbers has been ostracised, patronised and criticised by sections of society for years; their confidence is not easily won. Radio stations can buy credibility, up to a point, but clubbers know that while Pete Tong and Zöe Ball are both Radio 1 DJs, only one has any kudos in Ibiza's clubland.

As Manumission continues into the early hours of the morning, the ambiguity of Radio 1's position is comically highlighted. In a club famous for its sex shows, a giant screen flashes pornographic images on which Radio 1 has superimposed the message: “Annie Nightingale, LIVE IN THE BACK ROOM.”

Nightingale is a Radio 1 DJ, but the *Daily Mail* could be forgiven for thinking otherwise.



M. Wilson

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دکتر محمد صالح

Stressed at work

Sir: I welcome the proposal to make employers more aware of their responsibilities for the mental, as well as physical, health of their staff. Perhaps your leader writer who said that legislation "is going too far" (31 August) works in one of the few organisations in the UK that promote healthy working practices. Or are they sufficiently senior to off-load their pressures on to subordinates?

As a career counsellor I work with clients coping with career crises, or planning a change. Most of the crises are due to excessive workplace stress and personal life events. If the organisation is lucky they go sick before making a strategic error.

Many of those looking for changes are successful in their current careers. But they have decided that the costs of stress, frustration and excessive working hours to their health and family life are no longer acceptable. Senior managers, lawyers, accountants and teachers make up much of this group. They have earned sufficient savings to be able to afford to change. In many cases they are a serious loss to their organisations.

Most of the UK workforce do not have this option. They soldier on in many organisations until forced to give up when their health, family or both break down. These consequences cost the country thousands of pounds while the employer simply hires someone else.

Enlightened employers respect working time, set realistic tasks and targets, and recognise that private life events periodically overload the best employee. These healthy organisations achieve higher outputs from well-motivated and respected staff.

But the majority of UK organisations, including government itself, are potentially dangerous to the health and performance of staff. The prevailing UK workaholic culture, driven by unachievable targets and control-culture managers is very inefficient. Short term targets are achieved at high cost to lives, families, careers and the state welfare budget.

DAI WILLIAMS
Woking, Surrey

Sir: A poster has recently appeared in the hospital department where I work. Entitled "How to deal with stress" and claiming to have been produced by the Health Promotion Department of Buckinghamshire Health Authority in 1996, it includes useful advice such as: "Don't be too ambitious" (picture of uppy wages clerk dreaming of being an accountant); "Be realistic: don't set too high standards for yourself" (exam student reminding herself that she doesn't need straight As); and "Distract yourself" (smiling man with closed eyes listening to a hi-fi through headphones).

No doubt the widespread adoption of these radical measures throughout NHS management will have a dramatic effect on waiting lists. Or perhaps it already has?

STEPHEN LOWE WATSON
Leaves, East Sussex

Terror of a Bill

Sir: You report that the so-called Terror Bill will provide that the uncorroborated evidence of a single individual (a policeman) will suffice to convict someone of being a member of a banned group. Such a provision must be absolutely contrary to the need for justice to be seen to be done. This part of the Bill will make very bad law and safe verdicts are very unlikely to result. It has the side-effect of converting the police into a prosecution service and makes the dissolution of the Royal Ulster Constabulary ever more likely.

The same Bill will make it an offence to plan to commit any criminal offence abroad. Such a measure could catch not only terrorists, and, as your political correspondent suggests (report, 31 August), paedophiles and bank robbers, but also intending football

boogymen planning to travel to overseas matches and "party animals" Ibiza-bound. The last do seem pretty wide of the ostensible mark - international terrorism.

FENTON F ROBB
Egmont, Berwickshire

After the bombs

Sir: As someone from a Muslim background and with a keen interest in Africa, I condemn the three bomb attacks in Dar es Salaam, Nairobi and Cape Town. Yet it seems that what is on the rise is not so much Islamic fundamentalism but anti-Muslim sentiment.

Islamic fundamentalism has not been able to establish credible or legitimate institutions anywhere; nor has it been able to reconcile ideology with socio-economic change and it cannot point to any successes in increasing national development or welfare anywhere. Its one-time source of inspiration, Iran, no longer spouts the same rhetoric.

Bin Laden and people like him do not and will not enjoy Muslim support all over the world because Muslims are not a homogeneous lot bent on terror.

Yet issues are easily Islamised and the anti-Muslim sentiment has become a handy and acceptable form of prejudice. This is a great mistake as the real threat to global peace resides elsewhere.

Global economic and political processes are marginalising parts of the world. Countries which are not on the development train may well produce forces which are anti-modern and anti-development and which espouse fundamentalist visions.

The way to prevent these developments will not be by demonising people and bombing them or by supporting agents of exclusiveness like Netanyahu's Israel. Rather, the self-appointed

policeman of the world, the USA, needs to promote itself to detective status and identify paths to a more inclusive world.

SHAFTUR RAHMAN
Cambridge

Sir: Could someone please explain why the two Nairobi bombing suspects are being tried in the United States and not Kenya, where the crime they are accused of took place ("Nairobi 'bombers' flown to New York", 28 August)?

If the Kenyan embassy in Washington had been bombed, killing two hundred Americans and 12 Kenyan diplomats, and if Kenya had a law on its statute books giving it the right to exact retribution anywhere in the world, would the culprits have

been sent to face justice in Kenya?

J M BUDD
Manningtree, Essex

Sir: US cruise missiles hit Khartoum shortly before the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Omdurman (2 September 1898), when British and Egyptian soldiers defeated an Islamic movement which had, among other things, substituted slave raids and pillaging for governance in South Sudan. One hundred years on, there are some parallels, but cruise missiles will merely exacerbate the fundamental problem that gives rise to the misery in Sudan today.

Until all parties to the civil war are held to their agreement to

cease fire for an interim period, so that a referendum can be held to ask southerners what they want, the misery will continue. Britain sold the southerners down the river in 1954, but could now give substance to an ethical foreign policy by convening a conference to agree and establish ceasefire and referendum arrangements.

A government which has experienced the Northern Ireland peace process, which is a permanent member of the Security Council and which descends from the imperial power which created the modern Sudan could surely try to overcome this hurdle in order to bring about a peaceful settlement.

PHILIP WINTER
Nairobi

Sir: In view of both expert and more general misgivings surrounding President Clinton's motives for bombing the chemical plant in Khartoum, should he, on 3 September as proposed, be welcomed at Omagh of all places?

MARTIN BRADLEY
Tarnworth, Staffordshire

Theatre in peril

Sir: What an extraordinary admission of defeat for the Royal Shakespeare Company to want to demolish the very theatre that made it great (report, 27 August). I have just returned from Stratford, where I saw two plays in one day - one at The Swan and the other at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and my experience was exactly the opposite to the claims made by the RSC.

During my three and a quarter hours in The Swan I was made profoundly uncomfortable and restless by my narrow, armless seat and by the deafening noise of the production, which was far too intrusive for such a limited space. Not, however, loudly they were shouting, could I hear the actors' words since, playing in the round, they were obliged to turn their backs on me half the time. The main house, in the evening, was by contrast elegant and comfortable and I could see and hear without strain.

What makes actors imagine that audiences want to be intimate with them? We get close-ups on film and television. What the theatre can so excitingly give us is a sense of spectacle and formality. There was no problem with audibility in the days of Olivier and Ashcroft. Rather than pull down a beautiful and historic building, let the actors and directors raise their game.

MEREDITH DANEMAN
London SW15

IN BRIEF

Commons. Even in recent years the Speaker has been accused, however unjustifiably, of bias towards the party to which he or she once belonged. The Swedes have already vested more power in the Speaker of the Riksdag. The role has become politicised. There is much to be said for the referee never having been a member of either team.

DONALD FOREMAN
Secretary
The Constitutional Monarchy
Association
London E4

Sir: Glenda Cooper's article "Mad dogs and dreaming spires" (27 August) reminded me of the old tale of an elderly Oxford don who had failed miserably to come to terms with the presence of female students at his lectures. No matter how many women were

present, he would always commence his lectures with the word "Gentlemen".

One day he arrived to find the lecture hall full of women. There was only one male student present. Grasping his gown with both hands he took a deep breath. "Sir..."

JAMES W BROWNE
London WC1

Sir: When working on the drawings for the Time Life building in 1952, I remember hearing a tale from one of the small posse that went down to St Ives to commission Ben Nicholson ("Henry Moore sent back to his office", 28 August). When told that the clients had only half the money he was asking for a mural to cover the whole wall, which is what we all hoped for, he offered to paint them one half the size. This, sadly, was agreed.

GODFREY ELLIS MILES
Stamford, Lincolnshire

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Continuing our series on tourism in the capital, a visitor tries out a fancy hat from a street trader

John Voos

Tougher GCSEs

Sir Michael McMahon appears to disparage the achievements of GCSE history students, ("Standards are slipping", 28 August) and suggests that little historical knowledge is required in order to pass GCSE history.

There has this year been a marked departure by examination boards from the interpretation of source-based material towards examinations which require a formidable amount of contextual knowledge and understanding.

The history papers (Edexcel, syllabus A) which my GCSE students sat in June were quite astounding in the breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding expected. Paper 1 required a detailed knowledge of Soviet-American relations between Yalta and Potsdam 1944-45, Berlin 1948, Hungary, Cuba and extending through to the Gorbachev era. They then had to demonstrate their knowledge of the "impact war has had on Britain 1900-1930", which involved such issues as alcohol consumption, pacifism, electoral reform, the foundation of the welfare state, and even an intimate knowledge of the 1944 Education Act. All without notes, prompts or guidance.

Paper 2 required an in-depth knowledge of Nazi Germany and the Vietnam War. Coursework (25 per cent of the GCSE) was assigned to two other unrelated topics. My students, of all abilities, (attending an inner London comprehensive) study nine other subjects.

I was lucky. I took my O-Levels at around the time Mr McMahon sat his. Five or six subjects was often then the norm. My history O-Level required a fairly straightforward and compact knowledge of Roman Britain - and there was a considerable degree of choice on the question paper. Standards and expectations have over the years been significantly raised.

DAVID CARVER
London SE6

Unfair votes

Sir: Lord Parkinson asserts ("Right of Reply", 28 August) that "Independent research suggests that our electoral system is more proportional than any form of PR." Did that research cover the result of the 1951 general election in which Labour received most votes but the Tories won more seats and formed the government? Or the 1974 result when the Tories received most votes but Labour won more seats and formed the government? Or even the 1997 general election when the Liberal Democrats got 13 per cent of the votes in Scotland and won 10 seats, against the Conservatives' 17 per cent of Scottish votes but no seats?

The looming anti-PR alliance between the Conservatives and Old Labour is interesting. What is not surprising is the reactionary attitude of the Tory Party. They opposed the last major electoral reform - votes for women. JOHN PALMER
Waterlooville, Hampshire

Sir: Cecil Parkinson argues against any change of the voting system on the grounds that PR leads to deals being stitched together by parties and politicians choosing who is in power. Does he have in mind a Tory government losing its majority through by-elections, floor-crossings and withdrawing the whip from Euro-rebels, and then having to make a deal with the Ulster Unionists?

The assumption that a change in the voting system would lead to a hung parliament is wrong. In the 1997 election the Alternative Vote would have led to Labour having a much larger majority than they enjoy at present, and even the Single Transferable Vote would lead to a small Labour majority.

Governments, even coalition ones, have to face the electorate. If people do not want a Labour/Liberal Democrat coalition then the obvious response is to vote Conservative. GRAHAM RICHARD POINTER
St Andrews, Fife

Tense? Blue? Bad tempered? You must have had a holiday

THIS IS a time of year when people are suffering from PHT (Post Holiday Tension). This is a sort of tension caused by just having come back from holiday, and, well... Look, I've only just come back from my holidays and I'm suffering from it too, so if you don't mind I'll hand over the column today to someone who specialises in the condition. Dr Monica Furlough, so we can all benefit from her advice, and I can come back refreshed tomorrow. All yours, Mon!

This PHT thing - how do I know if I've got it?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: If you have just come back from holiday, you'll know if you've got it all right. The symptoms are: disorientated, bad temper, inability to remember your pet's names, disbelief

that your house hasn't burnt down, forgetfulness (as to where the butter is kept etc), regret that you aren't still on holiday, regret that you didn't go to the place you went the year before, tendency to find stubs of airline boarding cards in odd pockets, tendency to find house smaller than you remembered, tendency of the plants in your garden that you don't like to have grown three feet in your absence, inability to remember why you have come back, inability to remember which day you go back to work, or if you have a job, or what it involved...

Hold on, hold on - I thought holidays were supposed to get you relaxed and bring you back rested! Dr Monica Furlough writes: Oh, come on! Holidays are one of the


major causes of stress in modern life. Someone once said that the amount of organisation and planning that goes into a perfect holiday is the same amount as needed for a small Gulf War.

Very true. Who was it?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: Me.

And is the cure for PHT the same as that for a small military operation?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: You mean, should you have church services and war crime tribunals and parades of thanksgiving when you come back from holiday? Well, holidays aren't quite that serious, although it would certainly be tempting to place certain hotel proprietors on trial for their life after certain holiday experiences.


MILES KINGSTON
Tell them about the food, the hotel, the trip, the nice people you met from Staffordshire...

So what should we do about PHT? Dr Monica Furlough writes: The most important thing is not to

snap back straightaway into everyday life. You know, athletes always warm up before a race, but afterwards they always warm down again. They have to make a gradual transition from physical exertion, otherwise their muscles will suffer. Same with holidays. Come down slowly.

What does that mean in practice? Dr Monica Furlough writes: It means you should wear holiday clothes for a day or two. Keep to shorts, if you were wearing shorts. Ski clothes, if it was a skiing holiday. Talk about your holiday a lot. Tell people where you have been and how great it was...

But what if the only good bit was relaxing at Heathrow and buying duty free?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: Talk about that a lot. Say, "We had a really good time at Heathrow, though..." Tell people all about your experiences.

You're joking, surely? Dr Monica Furlough writes: Keep telling people how much better things were in the country you've been to. Show them your pictures. Ask them over and over again if they got your postcard.

But what if you didn't send them a postcard?

Dr Monica Furlough writes: All the more necessary. If you didn't send someone a postcard, you must make them believe that you did. Tell them about the food, the hotel, the trip, the nice people you met from Staffordshire...

But you'll lose all your friends if you do that! Nobody will talk to you for a week!

Dr Monica Furlough writes: That's the whole idea! What I forgot to mention was that the people who suffer most from Post-Holiday Tension are not those who come back from holiday - it's the people who haven't gone away and have to put up with the return of the holidaymakers! My treatment guarantees that you will be ostracised, which will give the sufferers at home a chance of quarantine from you!

Miles Kingston writes: I'll be back tomorrow with my holiday snaps, an account of my best meals in France, and a story about a really funny couple from Norfolk we met on the boat.

Dr Monica Furlough

THE INDEPENDENT

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The American president can still make a difference

WHAT DOES one say about today's meeting of Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin - two discredited leaders propping each other up as they desperately seek to get to the finishing line of the Millennium?

The White House must be wishing that it had never pencilled in the summit for 1 September as a means of bringing Clinton back on the world stage after his holiday. Even Moscow is embarrassed by having some 400 US journalists and half the State Department descend on it for a meeting that can now only show just how far they have slipped from superstar status.

The last time an oversexed President met an over-inhaling President was when JFK Kennedy met with Nikita Khrushchev for an ill-fated embrace which was to lead directly to Cuba and Moscow's miscalculation of the new American President's resolve. This time, no one really expects any results. Those days are gone because political leaders no longer have very much real power over global affairs. The markets, and underlying forces, have taken over and just at the moment they are making things very difficult indeed in Russia.

The country is not in the position to do what the Hong Kong authorities have been spending nearly \$10bn trying to do: sustain the currency and squeeze the speculators. Nor would anyone advise them to do so. The IMF has no funds for further aid. Nor would the US Congress sanction the Federal Government to increase its assistance.

Powerlessness need not mean futility, however. The right words at this time can help. And no one should doubt President Clinton's ability to deliver them. He understands better than any leader since Churchill and Roosevelt how much politics is the art of tone. The world and the markets, never mind the Russians, do need an air of reassurance at this time; a feeling that while the problems are Russia's and theirs to solve, they will not spread or bring down the rest of the world with it.

For a start, Russia, while a pygmy in economic reality, remains a superpower in ballistic capability. For the Europeans, who no longer have to fear the threat of short- and medium-range ballistic missiles, this may not have much reality. But for the Americans it does. There is sense in propping up Yeltsin's personal position so long as he remains head of the armed services and he can now be kept above the domestic morass around him.

The economic ramifications of the present crisis are more difficult to control. But again fine words can but-



ter some parsnips. Markets cannot be reversed, but given the right nudge they can be stilled and even occasionally turned. Finance without barriers allows problems in one part to move very rapidly to others through the medium of currency swaps, futures and the "exotic" financial instruments that have been developed at such a hectic pace in the last few years. But that very fact gives the total system a depth and breadth with which to cope.

The need at this moment is to still any further waves of concern. And here American leadership can make a difference. As the largest economy in the world, its continued growth is of vital importance to the rest of the

world. As the headquarters of global finance, the decision of its institutions set the pace elsewhere.

Now is the time for Western central banks to start easing up on interest rates and the US Federal reserve could start the process in its meeting this month. In the same way, US banks could do an enormous amount of good, or bad, in their negotiations over the financing of Brazil and Argentina.

No one is saying that, with a wave of his hand, Clinton can make Russia's political problems or the world's financial crisis disappear. But he can help influence events if the timing is right. On that score he still remains a master.

Give parents the choice on MMR

WHOEVER HEARD of a drugs company refusing to meet a rush for a profitable drug? That is exactly what Pasteur Merieux MSD has done in discontinuing the supply of its measles vaccine. Ostensibly, the decision was made because the demand for the drug was too great to say the least, this does not sound credible.

Despite denials from all concerned, it seems much more plausible that the company has been forced by pressure from the Department of Health to end the supply of the drug. The alternative would have been to continue watching parents stampede away from the combined version of the treatment (MMR), which combines a measles vaccine with those for mumps and rubella. The single vaccines, given over three years, are more expensive overall to the NHS; concerns of cost must have entered into the equation.

The medical establishment has argued that the original research, on which parents' fears are based, was alarmist. The Medical Research Council claims that the apparent correlation between MMR inoculation and the diseases to which it has been linked is a coincidence. Autism does appear at about the same age as the vaccinations are given, but the evidence is that this was always the case. No one should panic, especially as the result of frightening parents might be increasing deaths from measles, mumps and rubella.

But parents are worried, and doctors have been wrong before. Whatever the Medical Council says, it is their concerns that matter; they have a right to decide which treatments their children receive. It would cost very little for the NHS to give parents the choices they want. Certainly, the money spent on MMR would be nothing compared to what the Government is spending in its attack on waiting-lists. And for the NHS to be humanised, by responding to the wishes of patients, would do it much more good than all the waiting-list targets in the world.

Don't bank on them

BANK HOLIDAYS have lost not only the reason for their name, but also the reasons for their existence. The banks are open, whatever the British Government may say about it - traders in London yesterday were buying and selling anything they wanted. Every nation needs a day for its families, and people of every religion have a right to take their holy days off work, but a multicultural society no longer needs the prop of manufactured community. We should be able to take them whenever we want, just like other holidays.

I'm fed up with this myth of superiority spouted by the Scots

IT HAPPENED last Saturday afternoon: a Scotsman opened his mouth, and all of a sudden I knew I'd had enough of all this Scots who hae stuff, and decided that I one more person whinged to me, even in a minor key, about how the English fail to comprehend the Scots, then I'd give them a Cullodening.

The occasion for this moment of revelation came in the Assembly Halls of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh. I was in the audience of TV bigwigs to hear Suzanne Moore and Christopher Hitchens, among others, debate the Diana, Princess of Wales phenomenon. Had it been something real, as Suzanne persuasively argued, or half media construction and half obscurantist hysteria, as Christopher elegantly opined?

And then the Scots woman (let us call her Morag), stood up. Reminding us that our huns were parked on hallowed leather (the Assembly Halls will serve, pro tem, as a meeting place for the new Scottish parliament), Morag angrily denied the relevance of the debate. There had been, she said, no Diana stuff in her country. She had herself, she told us, gone to the coach station in Edinburgh a year ago to watch mourners depart for the funeral - only to discover that they were all turned for Glasgow. The funeral had all happened "down south". She made London sound like Alabama.

Morag's assault was two-pronged. First, she was cross about metropolitan and London bias. Fair enough, but she was also saying, in effect, that the Scots would not be, could not be, stupid, superstitious or hidebound enough to fall for the Diana con, like the silly English. "We up here," she in-

sinuated, "are superior to, and more progressive than, you. And the sooner we are shot of you the better."

Such an attitude of cultural superiority demands a history, or rather, a mythology to sustain it. And the construction of a mythology is what the Scottish National Party, among others, is all about. In order for nationalism to be regarded as something other than a mad, romantic movement wishing to return to medieval times, Scots nationalists require the painting of a picture of progressive, modernising Scots held back by the reactionary English.

The myth starts in 1320 with the Declaration of Arbroath. "Parallels between this... and the later American Declaration of Independence are clear," says a nationalist website, because "enshrined in the declaration is the principle that sovereignty rests with the people". The declaration says that the King of Scotland can be deposed if he hands power over to the English. "There you have it," exults the author. "That Declaration of Scottish Independence, 675 years old, states clearly that the people will choose their king... This contrasts markedly with the English concept of sovereignty where the monarch is sovereign over the people and the land. The two principles collide after the Treaty of Union (1707) to the point where the Westminster Parliament now considers itself to have absolute sovereignty." Get it? The Scots are into the rights of Man, while the poor old Saxons are still bending the knee. And it is a historical truth. The English that Scots increasingly seem to believe in is their own (and Hollywood's) fiction. I love Scotland and I'm happy that



DAVID AARONOVITCH
Nationalists require the painting of a picture of progressive Scots held back by the reactionary English

there'll be a Scots parliament, and I could even cope with Scots independence. But somebody really ought to tell our Caledonian brothers and sisters that they are going to miss us. For, while English people do not, whatever the tabloid press say, think that *Coronation Street* is true, the Scots give every impression of accepting that *Brotherheart* and *Rob Roy* are.

So let me reintroduce my Scottish friends to the real English, the radical English, the English who existed before the fact of 1707 made us - well, nilly - British. One hundred and five years earlier than the Declaration of Arbroath, at Runnymede, King John was forced to sign Magna Carta, affirming subjects rights including that of habeas corpus, and establishing that the monarch's rule because they are allowed to. It was in England uniquely that, in the wake of the Black Death, feudalism began to crumble. An Eng-

lish poet wrote the subversive words "when Adam dolve and Eve span, who was then the gentillman?" some three centuries before Burns agreed, with "a man's a man for a' that". In 1381 England witnessed the Peasants' Revolt, when Wat Tyler took London and beheaded the Archbishop of Canterbury. The folk hero of emergent England was Robin Hood, a premature redistributor. Those of Scotland, by contrast, are almost always feudal figures.

The folk culture of England, from the earliest times, was infused with notions of freedom and justice, of bowmen in green cloth against knights. It was to that sense of Englishness that the revolutionaries of the 1640s looked when fighting against their (Scottish) King. It was the English who decapitated their tyrant, 144 years before the French got round to it. The Diggers and the Levellers were English, inviting their followers to acts of radicalism in the name of the "new St George". Cromwell's famous beseeching "in the bowels of Christ, think it possible that you may be mistaken" was addressed to the hopeless sectarians of Scottish Presbyterianism.

It was in England in 1689 - 18 years before the Act of Union, that the Bill of Rights enacted the supremacy of Parliament over the King. It's little wonder that many Englishmen opposed the Union; they weren't keen on being yoked to feudal Scots, lots of whom seemed intent on restoring the Stuarts. *Charles I* were also aware that the representative element had always been much weaker in the Scots parliament than in the English, and that Scotland was largely run by great estates-holders. England, too, was (as it is now) a

much more heterogeneous and polyglot place. Defoe characterised English genius as being created through a "mongrel, half-bred race". London was a haven for successive generations of immigrants - I should know. England gave birth to Tom Paine, to the common law, and to Blake's vision of Jerusalem, a radical notion of paradise on earth - England's Green and Pleasant Land. One day, when Britain is gone, it'll be our national anthem - not "Rule Britannia", which was written by a Scot.

The Tolpuddle Martyrs were English, as were most of the Chartists, as were the Jarrow marchers. As is - and here's the rub - Margaret Thatcher. For progress cuts all ways, and England, far more open to the world, has been the home of radical change and ideas, not always of the left. Scotland, on the other hand, has been comparatively conservative. It remains to this day land rights that are relics of a feudal age. The Labour of minds are the baronies, run by latter-day thames and lairds. It harboured, for many years, the worst kind of deferential Toryism. Until 10 years ago no Catholic had ever played for Glasgow Rangers.

No wonder the new Scottish elite would rather fashion a different history. Linda Colley, in her book *Britons*, describes some of the Scots of 1707 thus: "As for the wealthy or ambitious minority, they were torn between anger at the loss of Scotland's ancient *liberty* and a natural desire for a wider stage than their own homeland could afford them. At one and the same time they resented the South and craved its bounty and opportunities." They still do. Perhaps, after independence, they'll give over.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"People don't seem to be able to distinguish between celebrity and notoriety. They ask for autographs and photographs and things. They ask me to sign baseball caps, which I find ridiculous."
Louise Woodward

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"For the merchant, even honesty is a financial speculation."
Charles Baudelaire, French poet

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THE HONG Kong dollar has to be stabilised in order to maintain public confidence in the economy. Financial Secretary Sir Donald Tsang Yam-kuen stressed that the government was ready to continue the war against the speculators, who apparently have not yet given up the fight. Compounded by the unfavourable economic environment, and the negative GDP this year, confidence would have been shattered and the currency destabilised. Therefore, the market inter-

ventions have prevented the currency turmoil and upheld public confidence. Maintaining the stability of the currency is the most important target.
Sing Tao, China

THE HKFE's new measures are aimed at increasing the costs of speculation and tracing the responsibility. But they may also break Hong Kong's reputation as a liberal fiscal market. Nonetheless, we still fully support the government's move. Protecting the dollar

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction to Hong Kong's measures against speculators



takes a higher priority than defending the reputation of the market. The government has to be forever vigilant in the absence of a detailed strategy to counter the speculators. We

urge the government to quickly draw up such a plan.
Hong Kong Daily News

WHATEVER THE preference of individual governments, it has

become clear to all that the rules of the game across Asia must be changed, in order to keep rapacious speculators at bay, and to maintain stability in economies. Over the weekend, Hong Kong went forward some way to changing these rules. It will now be much more expensive for speculators to wreak havoc here. These are welcome changes, though how effective they will be in containing those destructive elements remains to be seen.
Hong Kong Standard

NEW MEASURES should, to a certain extent, be able to inhibit speculative activities. Still, some HKFE members may not reveal the actual identities of the speculators. Thus the government may have to enact new laws to complement these measures. A higher deposit of HK\$160,000 (£13,000), for example, may be considered. Although these measures may scare off the investors, they are an essential step that would benefit the whole of society.
Sing Pao, China

JAYICO 1500

Russia

PANDORA

PROMISES, PROMISES. The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, is a nice guy, perhaps too nice for his own good. When he visited Salford, the 19th-century Yorkshire model village created by the millionaire philanthropist Sir Titus Salt, Smith told the locals that he was keen to have the town placed among the 32 British sites on the United Nations World Heritage list. However, on 21 August, when the British sites were announced, Salford was nowhere in sight. Now the local Labour MP, Christopher Leslie, is furious and plans to ask Smith some tough questions on the selection process. Chris Smith, considered lucky to have held his post in the Blair reshuffle, was called lightweight and ineffective by a Labour-dominated Commons committee on culture last June. No more Mr Nice Guy, OK, Chris?

THE REV Jesse Jackson was, at Chelsea Clinton's request, ministering to the First Family in the White House on the Sunday evening before the President's disastrous grand jury appearance and late-night "apology". This Sunday the former aide to Martin Luther King and presidential candidate spoke to the American people on a TV programme called *Face the Nation*. "I think he should have made it very clear," Jackson said of Clinton, "to Monica, to the family, all of those forces need to feel there's no fall-guy. The responsibility should have been in his lap." Have truer words ever been spoken?

THE NEW television series of *The X-Files* will not be filmed in Canada, as it was previously, but in sunny Los Angeles. The location change came, in part, as a response to the star David Duchovny's unhappiness about making the long northward commute, says the *Los Angeles Times*. Efforts are apparently being made to avoid losing the show's weird, dark atmosphere. The sultry actress Gillian Anderson, who plays Agent Scully, claims, "It will still be moody. There'll still be a lot of smoke." This was echoed by the producer Paul Rabinovitch, who added: "We're looking forward to creating a whole new look for the show without

destroying its integrity". That does sound like Hollywood smoke, doesn't it?

"JUST DO IT." So goes the Nike slogan broadcast around the world, accompanied by the famous white tick. Now, it seems, the sportswear manufacturer is itching for a pitch that's less aggressive, more positive, equally punchy. Rumour has it that the most likely new slogan is "I can". To which Pandora's initial response is "So what?"

NET SURFERS and Zippengate conspiracy fans are well acquainted with the Drudge Report produced by "outlaw" electronic journalist Matt Drudge, who first broke the Monica Lewinsky story. Although much abuse has been piled on Drudge by mainstream American broadcasters and journalists, his "Report" receives as many as 11m visits a month. Now it has been paid the ultimate compliment - a parody site called the "Drudge Retort" - well worth a visit, at www.drudge.com. Not only are the satirical "exclusives" mildly amusing, but the page contains a long list of links to some of the most eccentric sites on the Web. In the meantime, Drudge himself has now signed a contract with Rupert Murdoch's Fox Network. His "outlaw" status is clearly at an end.

THE DRUG-FREE Selnas Method of choosing your baby's sex, first introduced a year ago, is being relaunched. The Selnas people are now so confident that they're offering a full refund to parents who don't get the result they wanted. That's impressive corporate confidence, but Pandora wonders if the company would ever consider exchanging the goods for genuinely unsatisfied customers?

PANICKY AFTER the collapse of the Russian economy, the City is desperate for good news out of Moscow. Pandora is happy to provide it. Naina Yeltsin, Boris's wife, (pictured) remains in a huffish mood despite the tumbling rouble and the return of black market currency dealing to the city's streets. She told a group of reporters over the weekend, "Intuition is telling me that everything will be all right". So that's a "huy" then?



A romp in the groves of academe



TERENCE BLACKER

Those who couldn't pull undergraduates took each other to bed in a fit of promiscuity and infidelity

IT WAS something of a shock, I admit, to read that my old pal Charlie Guernsey has gone public with a plan to cover the homosexuals of Solihull with pig manure. A wood on his estate is a favourite spot for gay trysts, *The Times* revealed last week, and Charlie, now known as Lord Guernsey of Packington Hall, rather wishes it wasn't. Fencing had been broken, disruption caused, he said, not to mention "all manner of items relating to men's activities strewn about". Hence the pigshit, which was to be liberally spread throughout the woods.

Doubtless there are already plans for a pink protest march, with poor old Charlie becoming an emblem of heterosexism, class privilege and homophobia in the columns of the gay press. In vain will he point out that he is not shocked by the behaviour on his land - as a farmer, he sees far worse every day - but is simply concerned by the litter and possible effects on ground-nesting game. Unless he has changed a lot since we were at Cambridge together, which seems unlikely since he was one of those people who was 50 even when he was 20, a kinder, more tolerant and easygoing man could not be imagined.

Perhaps the best defence that he could offer is to point out that exclusivity is not the preserve of heterosexuals. This very week Manchester's Mardi Gras Gay festival has introduced for the first time a charge of £5 to be paid by any heterosexual man who wishes to join the party. In addition, straight men will be required to wear a Pledge Band on their arm, presumably to avoid misunderstandings and save time. "For far too long the Gay Village has been overrun by straights," the editor of *Gay Times*, David Smith, has explained. "I'd rather have a heart to heart with another gay man about the ups and downs on the relationship front and get his gay take on the new football season."

If finding converts to his cause at the Manchester Mardi Gras is difficult for Charlie (and I can't see him being able to contribute much to the gay take on the new football season), he could always return to our old Alma Mater, Trinity College, to discuss matters of intolerance with Dr Eric Griffiths, the English don who humiliated an 18-year-old interviewee on the grounds that she was female, came from Essex and was called Tracy.

Although much has been made in the press about the fact Dr Griffiths is gay and the soo of a dock-er, neither background nor sexual orientation have anything to do with his peculiar taste for sadistic snobbery. His problem is simply that he is a modern literary academic. Shortly after Charlie and I came down from Trinity, university life became more complicated. Lecturers started sleeping with their students, frequently allowing non-academic talents to influence the marking of papers. Those who couldn't pull undergraduates took each other to bed and an unseemly fever of promiscuity and infidelity gripped the academy, leaving rage and disappointment in its wake.

Young academics in English faculties were subjected to a further torture. The brighter of their contemporaries - David Lodge, Malcolm Bradbury, Andrew Davies and others - took to writing campus novels and dramas and became media celebrities. The division between learned criticism and the rapid opinion-mongering favoured in Sunday newspapers and late-night arts shows on TV became blurred. Caught between envy and contempt for their more visible colleagues, a whole generation of English academics went bonkers and tried to destroy reading altogether by teaching literary theory. The luckless Griffiths made his

name at Cambridge just when these changes were taking their toll. He wrote his one book, developed a reputation for the rough-tongued campy that passes for wit in academic circles, and became a judge on the Booker Prize. If ever there was a cry of pain, it was his description of A.S. Byatt's *Possession* as "the kind of novel I'd write if I didn't know I couldn't write novels."

Some have said that it is healthy that such people are in positions of power at the modern university. They point out that many students of Dr Griffiths have used his crash-course in brutality to good effect - Vanessa Feltz humiliating people on TV, Amanda Craig writing a take-no-prisoners satirical novel, David Sexton causing the same novel to be withdrawn and rewritten. They argue that, had Tracy not fled from the interview in tears, she might already be on her way to a career in one of the rougher areas of the media.

It's possible. In the meantime, I hope that those contemplating a pink protest at Packington Hall will remember that intolerance covers both - in fact, all - genders.

Memo to Mr Blair: we need to talk about raising taxes



RAYMOND PLANT

Discussion of any area of taxation within New Labour's ranks has been seriously inhibited

FOR NEW Labour, taxation is an issue of particular sensitivity. Among the party leadership it is received wisdom that Labour owed its defeat in the 1992 election to John Smith's "shadow budget". However, small the actual tax increases proposed, they enabled Tory propaganda once again to portray Labour as a party of high taxation. Getting rid of this image was one of the first tasks that Tony Blair and the creators of "New Labour" set themselves. The result was the commitment of the party's 1997 manifesto: that there would be no increases in either the basic or the higher rate of income tax in the lifetime of this parliament.

So central to New Labour's identity is this commitment that discussion of any area of taxation within the party's ranks has been seriously inhibited. This is not healthy. In the first place, Labour has not solved the basic problem of the British tax system. For nearly 30 years British governments have only managed to finance their public spending commitments through the expedient of one-off and short-term injections of funds into the Exchequer: first North Sea oil revenues, then privatisation receipts, and most recently the windfall tax. The underlying tax system is simply not generating sufficient, sustainable revenues.

Even more importantly, the lack of debate about taxation policy leaves New Labour politically vulnerable. For the ideal of generalised low taxation is an essentially Thatcherite one. To the New Right, taxation is a form of theft, an illegitimate appropriation of income rightfully belonging to individuals. (Hence Mrs Thatcher's insistence that public funds remained "taxpayers' money".) The Tories' constant desire to cut taxation is not simply a form of electoral bribery; it is the corollary of the neo-liberal belief that the state should be reduced in size.

For those on the centre and left of politics this cannot be the basis for public action. One may argue about the appropriate level of taxation - there need certainly be no commitment to high levels of tax - but the essential legitimacy of taxation must be maintained. Public expenditure is good, providing services which private spending cannot do. Paying taxes, as Keynes remarked, is simply the membership fee for living in a civilised society.

One task of the Commission on Taxation and Citizenship which the Fabian Society launches today will be to articulate these basic centre-left arguments for a new political era. We hope to shift debate finally off the Thatcherite terrain. But more importantly, the Commission will be examining how the structure of the tax system could be reformed.

First, there is the whole question of the relationship between the public, the taxes they pay, and the uses to which such taxes are put. The British system is highly centralised. We pay almost all our taxes into a single central pool, which then gets distributed by government in the Budget - with extraordinary little prior public debate - to all its various forms of spending. For the ordinary citizen, this process obscures any connection between what one pays in to the system and what one gets out. It is hardly any wonder that opinion polls reveal what would otherwise look like a paradox: there is little support for higher taxes per se, but a majority is willing to pay more for particular kinds of spending, such as health and education.

But why shouldn't taxes be more closely connected to the benefits expenditure. Indeed, if local people could vote directly on how their councils spent their money, this might help to re-invigorate local democracy.

A third issue which needs a new look at is that of how fair the tax system is. The principle that those who earn more should contribute proportionately more was seriously eroded under the Tories. The obvious areas for reform here are the systems of tax banding and of reliefs and allowances. It seems odd that when an individual's earning level reaches £20,000, the rate of income tax leaps by more than half (24% to 40%) but then stays exactly the same, however much more one's income rises.

It is surely not beyond our intelligence to devise a more differentiated system. We might also examine whether the very large sums of public revenues which are currently given back in reliefs and allowances - disproportionately to higher income earners - might not be more efficiently and fairly spent in other ways.

Finally, there is the question of what is taxed. The argument over the relative merits of income and expenditure taxation have been well rehearsed in the past. But new issues are emerging too. As businesses become increasingly multinational and as electronic (Internet-based) commerce expands, it will become easier for firms to evade national taxation by shifting the apparent location of their businesses. This may increase the attractiveness of "unevadable" forms of taxation such as energy and land. Other forms of environmental taxation are already under discussion. There is a good case for the taxation of international currency speculation, which might help dampen volatile money markets.

they pay for? By "hypothecating" or earmarking particular sources of revenue to particular expenditures, the government might substantially increase the public acceptability of taxation. Indeed it has already recognised this principle in the transport White Paper, which allows local authorities to levy road congestion charges for the specific purpose of funding public transport. It could similarly earmark other taxes: duties on cigarettes and alcohol to fund the National Health Service, pollution charges to fund environmental improvements, a tax on child benefit to fund nurseries.

Hypothecation has clear limits - government needs flexibility in its spending decisions - but the principle of transparency it represents is surely legitimate. A second means of achieving this might be to allow taxation on a sub-national level. Again, the principle has already been accepted, with the Scottish Parliament soon to have tax-raising powers. But why not in local government? It is time to re-examine the financing of local

expenditure. Indeed, if local people could vote directly on how their councils spent their money, this might help to re-invigorate local democracy.

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Herman the taxman - friendly face of the Inland Revenue

These are just some of the issues which the Commission on Taxation and Citizenship will be examining over the next year. Taxation is at the heart of the relationship between the citizen and the state, a relationship subject in recent years to a significant loss of trust. The challenge is not just to devise a better tax system, but in the process to help rejuvenate the process of democracy itself.

Raymond Plant (Lord Plant of Highfield) is a Labour peer, Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford and Chair of the Fabian Society's Commission on Taxation and Citizenship.

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Sky's the limit in the digital lift-off

WHAT EXACTLY is digital? How should we define it? Conventional wisdom is that it's an expensive cure for no known disease, a theoretician's delight and a practitioner's nightmare. However it's now critical that we as an industry are clear about the value of digital in all of our lives. Because digital could well be the saviour of television. But this new technology will not mean, as some fear-mongers would have us believe, that television is dead.

TV will continue to be the dominant medium for "lean-back" leisure rather than "lean forward" interaction. Yet both pieces of technology will happily sit together in the home of the future, fulfilling different needs for their owners. Which makes the PC and the Internet very serious competitors.

Given that British people spend the majority of their leisure time watching TV, it should come as no surprise that we do have the most to lose. So the £6.4bn question is: how do we remain relevant in a market-place that we haven't been able to adapt to? The answer lies in optimising a technology that will allow us to reinvent television, for the first time since its inception.

Digital is a technology that enables us to compete in a world that demands extensive choice and added value. Digital allows you to manage choice. But not by limiting choice, as others have suggested. The answer cannot be "dumb down" or provide less. The answer is to use the technology to provide context as well as content.

You could say that "Electronic Programme Guides" are to digital TV what Apple was to computing. Digital will enable us to give added value to people's viewing by providing them with their own personal "television navigation system", transforming the TV experience just as Apple and Windows made computers viable. So digital allows for more content and the digital "EPG" will give context. But digital will also do to television what unfettered choice has done to other markets. It will make us all better. The fact is, in the UK, sooner rather than later, the digital multi-channel household is going to be the norm.

The EPG is the greatest leveller of all. It guarantees that all programmes are treated equally in the eyes of the beholder at the touch of a button. So are we ready for the Big Bang in the TV universe? If we haven't got the message yet, we have to recognise that the days when any one of us was able to secure a majority audience is at an end.

All of us have to face up to the irreversible fragmentation into countless personal audiences - niche audiences all wanting and needing different "fare". It happened in magazines, and it's happening to us.

In all British TV households, television viewing has declined over the past five years, while reading, eating out and holidays are on the increase and far preferred to watching TV. In the UK, nearly half of Internet users claim that their use is at the expense of watching TV. This means that the PC will be a growing competitor for people's attention. Most UK research groups agree that by the end of next year - within just 18 months - UK Internet penetration will be close to that of multi-channel TV today.

What is interesting, however, is that digital television has destroyed the convergence theory: PCs may compete with us, but they're not going to become us. For years now, the word "convergence" has gone side by side with digital. TVs and PCs would get married and live happily ever after. I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but there's been a divorce. It's clear that people's use of TV and PCs are hugely differing experiences. The

Internet is succeeding because it is adding real value to people's lives. With big events at one end and niches at the other, what is going to happen to the middle? The answer is that choice and fragmentation may well kill off the middle, unless we respond quickly and decisively to what's already happening. Although I'd be the first to acknowledge that the current system has produced some fantastic television, it cannot be denied that some broadcasters have reacted to competition and fragmentation by putting out "least objectionable programmes" - blander rather than better - to appeal to the widest possible audience.

Most of us have worked for so long in a three- or four-channel environment, that it may seem impossible to move out of our comfort zone. In tomorrow's TV world, where multi-channel TV homes are everywhere, blandness will be anathema. Content will have to be innovative, ambitious and competitive. We have to leap forward with confidence. Because the most dangerous thing will be to play it safe.

Dr. J. J. J. J. J.

Russia's old hand at the helm

RUSSIA'S LAZARUS Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, started out as the man Boris Yeltsin did not want as head of government, and has ended up in control of the destiny of the President - or put more cruelly, of the pace and manner of his political demise.

President Clinton, who spent much of last week being told by his advisers that Mr Yeltsin was likely to be out of office by the time he arrived in Moscow for today's summit, now finds that his opposite number in Moscow has pulled off the most extraordinary of his many survival acts to date. A deal between the Communist-dominated parliament and Chernomyrdin is intended to shore up the President until the Kremlin elections planned for the year 2000.

But it is Chernomyrdin who is pulling the President's strings, and to him that the US will appeal to save Russia's battered reforms, just five months after a panicked Yeltsin sacked him, only to re-appoint him last week after the sudden rouble devaluation brought on an even greater panic. Chernomyrdin's eclipse of Yeltsin is the latest step in a tortuous and ambiguous relationship between the two men which began in 1992, when the former head of Gazprom, the natural gas industry, was imposed on Yeltsin in his first defeat by the Congress of People's Deputies, the legislative hangover from the Communist era, and an early power base for the enemies of reform.

He replaced Yegor Gaidar, the young monetarist beloved of the West, as Prime Minister. Yeltsin was unable to hide the pain of the moment, standing with bowed head at the podium after he had given in, and announcing through his spokesman that he and Gaidar had been "one heart and one soul". If the lurid account of the President's ousted bodyguard, Alexander Korzakov, is to be believed, Yeltsin's drink problem began - or rather resurfaced - at this time.

Chernomyrdin arrived in office as the incarnation of all that the Yeltsin team stood against. He wanted to go slow where the reformers sought to move fast, favoured the role of the state where they elevated the market, and called for the loosening of monetary policy while they saw resulting inflation as the greatest threat to prosperity.

The West has become far more jaundiced about the chances of reforms making rapid headway in Russia than it was then. As a Moscow correspondent when Chernomyrdin arrived in office, I still remember our dismay at the first public glimpse of the new premier: still dazed after his leap from deciding the fate of oil subsidies one minute to heading the government the next. Chancellor Kohl, arriving that day to deliver one of his periodic pep-talks and encourage German investment, was only told as he was flying over the Baltic States that he was to be met by Chernomyrdin, not Gaidar.

Instead of the podgy young reformer with eager, eccentric English, and a fascination for the free market, there stood on the tarmac a sombre figure in a navy-blue raincoat - the traditional outdoors uniform of the *nomenklatura*. The new PM looked like a cross between Mikhail Gorbachev and Helmut Kohl. But his style was pure *Homo sovieticus*, and there was something strangely familiar about his habit of delivering promising starts to sentences, only for their reformism to evaporate in the second. "I am for the market, but not for the bazaar" was his first soundbite. His first act was to try and re-impose price controls, a move defeated by Yeltsin's reformist economic adviser Boris Fyodorov.



ANNE MCELVOY
I still remember our dismay at the first public glimpse of the new premier - a sombre figure in a navy-blue raincoat

Chernomyrdin was - and still is - a representative of the pragmatic if limited mentality of the "red managers" who really kept the Soviet Union running in its terminal phase. A recent interview with the *Financial Times* exhibits his continuing pride in this era: "I transformed the government industry into a company and I myself... was the first to do this in the [Soviet] Union. I understood even then that we had reached a dead end." Hauling Gazprom out of the claws of the dying Soviet state created one of the world's largest companies. Chernomyrdin clearly believes that he is skilled at market economics. But running a monopoly in an essential commodity, whose gargantuan size guarantees it a major international standing, hardly counts as experience of the cut and thrust of capitalism.

Indeed, his attachment to his former contacts (radical reformers nickname him the minister for Gazprom) linked him to several of the business and banking oligarchs who are a more powerful force in Russia than the politicians. Their empires flourished under his premiership. For a man who believed in the market, not the bazaar, he presided over the greatest national cut-price asset sale of the century - with profits flooding into western bank accounts, not back into the impoverished Russian tax system.

It is hardly surprising then, that many pro-free market Western analysts are concluding that the revival of Chernomyrdin is a disaster, since he was responsible for many of the problems to start with. But they are unable to suggest a politically valid alternative. Chernomyrdin is no fool. He is keenly aware that he can only prevent a worse decline in Russia - and bolster his own chance of replacing Yeltsin in the Kremlin in two years' time - if he manages to collect some tax revenue from the country's powerful companies, and clamp down on their habit of salting away profits in banks outside the country. In other words, he needs to pick a fight with the very people who are supporting him now.

Watching Boris Berzovsky, the most prominent of the business tsars, telling *Newsnight* that Chernomyrdin would be good for the country - and proceeding to mix up the words "country" and "company" several times - did not inspire confidence.

But my hunch is that Chernomyrdin has learned more in the last six years than his detractors give him credit for. He has appointed as deputy prime minister Boris Fyodorov, the same man who defeated him over price controls in 1993. He also knows that Russian business has little interest in a fully-fledged Communist revival, let alone a Communist in the Kremlin. The red managers who rose to political, as well as economic, prominence under Mikhail



The new image of Russia: Viktor Chernomyrdin may not be the best thing for the country, but he is certainly not the worst

Gorbachev's perestroika are scathing about ideological diatribes, like the present Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, who have substituted nationalist chauvinism for Marxist-Leninism. Zyuganov tried to scupper the peace deal that brought an end to the pointless, degrading and expensive war in Chechnya, after Chernomyrdin had helped broker an armistice.

"They destroyed everything; they destroyed the best people; they destroyed the peasants," Chernomyrdin has said of the Communists, a rather cynical outcry for

someone whose entire career before 1991 was bound up with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. But it does mean that, like Boris Yeltsin, his priority is to keep Zyuganov and his ally, the unhinged Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, out of power by outwitting them in his *de facto* running of the country. If he is not the best thing that could happen to Russia, he is far from the worst.

Neither, unlike his extremist challengers, is he economically illiterate. He knows that he must find some way to pay back-wages owed to workers (and a cause taken up by

the Communists), while avoiding a slide into hyper-inflation and a slump in growth. It is the most difficult quandary any politician in Russia can have, however game his insistence that this mess is, as he insists, "absolutely manageable".

Boris Nemtsov, the young reformer who left the Kremlin in despair last week, summarises the gamble thus: "Chernomyrdin has some chance of winning presidential elections, if the economic and social situations improves drastically. But then, who believes that? Only Chernomyrdin."

RIGHT OF REPLY

ANDREW PAKES

The President of the National Union of Students responds to Ken Livingstone's accusation that they are backtracking on racism

READING KEN Livingstone's article in the *Indy* last Wednesday I was struck by one overwhelming thought: how sad it is that an individual who obviously has such a positive record in anti-racism work can get things (on occasion) so wrong.

I wholeheartedly agree with Ken's assertion that political correctness is a reactionary American import used by the right as a rallying call for all those opposed to the advances made in recent years by women, black and Asian communities, people with disabilities and lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

However, our Ken, does "his" cause no good when he attacks the National Union of Students for its role in combating the threat of Islamic extremists on campus. Has Ken constructed a league table of those who face prejudice and discrimination and prioritised which offenders most deserve our contempt and attention?

NUS has never claimed the small but dangerous groups of Islamic extremists are the main cause of racism, but they are a distinct and real threat to the welfare and safety of many students. As a gay male, I myself, have been subjected to some of their bile and hatred.

Racism is a series of diverse and often complex prejudices between and within different groups in "multi-cultural" Britain. This year's NUS Conference took an overwhelming vote to establish a Black Students Officer, while in July, Neville Lawrence addressed our annual Student Convention.

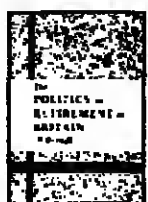
The student movement remains committed to fighting racism in all its forms, and I am not alone in finding Ken's belief - that challenging Islamic extremism on campus is not really fighting racism - quite bizarre.

The changing face of old age

MANY CHANGES will be necessary if the Government is to fulfil its pledge to the electorate to reform welfare so that it works with, rather than against, the grain of human nature. But pensions are the big issue. Reform here attempts to lay down the basis on which future income begins to be determined only after 40 years or so. Such a reform is not far from those who seek only short-term fixes. There are, for example, still 700,000 pensioners today drawing entitlement from the 1925 Pensions Act.

Pension provision has a profound impact on work incentives, as well as on the propensity to save. In taking an overall view this book has important lessons for today's debate, provided that the reader is willing to push through the ideological framework which John Macnicol seeks to impose on the story he seeks to tell.

His book kicks off with an introduction which hardly links to the rest



TUESDAY BOOK

THE POLITICS OF RETIREMENT IN BRITAIN, 1878-1948

BY JOHN MACNICOL, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, £45

of the volume, the structure of which the author tries to fit into the neat little boxes of class and gender. Fortunately, the story to be told is so good that it keeps breaking out from the limited confines the author is intent to place upon it.

Here is one example of the slant in much of Macnicol's text. On too many occasions, we learn that the wicked Tories would only countenance welfare reform provided it was financed on a basis of national insurance. The working class, in other words, would pay for its own reforms. There is no hint that there could be other, more substantial,

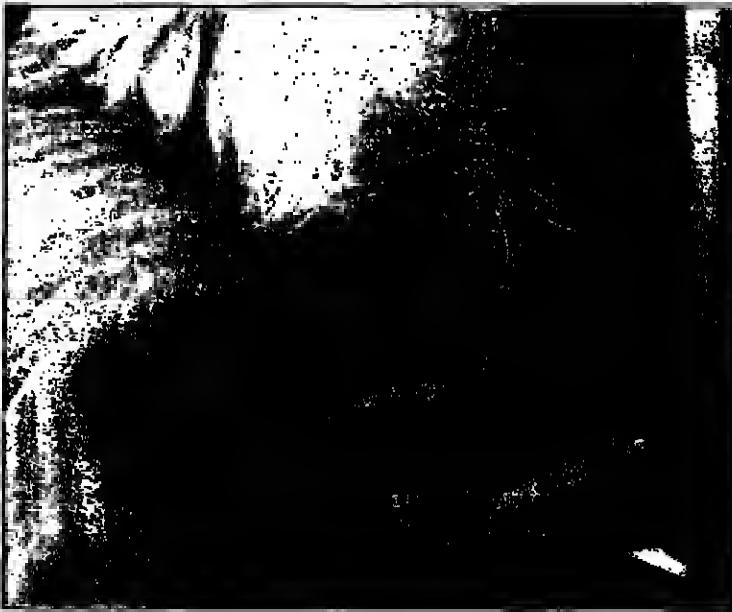
reasons for such an approach. Paying directly for benefits may affect the behaviour of the recipient, for example.

A further difficulty with this approach comes when the author moves away from the interwar years, dominated by the Tories, and on to the programme of postwar reconstruction. Clement Attlee accepted the insurance principle not because he was a crypto-Tory - nothing could be farther from the truth. He did so because he believed that a welfare system which people believed they owned was one which might not only survive longer, but would play its own part in building a new socialist commonwealth.

It is true that Lord Beveridge drove the insurance principle into a financial cul-de-sac by insisting on flat-rate contributions for flat-rate benefits. But both Beveridge and Attlee mitigated the regressive nature of this national insurance poll tax by aiming to put the taxpayer's contribution at two-thirds of the welfare bill. An analysis of this Exchequer contribution, adding a progressive element to a system which allowed practically every worker to be a full member of the insurance scheme, does not feature in this volume.

Where the book is good is in the section dealing with the reform of the Poor Law, and the advent of old age pensions. And it is extraordinarily good in the chapter dealing with the interwar studies of poverty.

Better than any other study I have read, Macnicol shows how the reform of the Poor Law at the turn of the century was not simply about easing the



Poverty still affects too many old people

lot of the aged poor, whose only offence was that they no longer had the strength to drag themselves to work should any employer want them. Help for the aged opened up the opportunity for a tougher regime for those of working age, and this too was a goal for most reformers who advocated the introduction of state pensions.

Macnicol excels, adding much to public knowledge, and hopefully to the political debate, in his analysis of what was read from the interwar poverty studies. He shows how the aged poor were very largely written out of these studies by those who wrote up the surveys, despite what the raw data indicated.

I had long been aware of how Rowntree's arbitrary "poverty line" had underestimated the costs of women and children, as compared to the adult male. I had not appreciated

how a similar exercise operated against the elderly. Nor did I understand how a whole stream of survey findings were, in effect, doctored so as to emphasise the poverty of the working family.

This part of the book will pay handsomely dividends once Parliament begins to debate the Government's proposals for long-term pension reform. No government has been able to contemplate reforms benefiting pensioners in 40 years time without making, thankfully, major concessions to today's pensioners. John Macnicol's book will provide much help to those wishing to keep the Government on course.

The reviewer is MP for Birkenhead and was until recently minister with responsibility for welfare reform. FRANK FIELD

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TUESDAY POEM

TO THE LONDONERS

FROM 'IN 1940'
BY ANNA AKHMATOVA, TRANSLATED BY RICHARD MCKANE

Time is writing Shakespeare's twenty-fourth drama,
with a clear, dispassionate hand,
and for us, the partakers of this menacing feast,
it is better to read *Hamlet*, *Julius Caesar* or *King Lear*
by the molten lead river.
Better for us today to accompany the little dove Juliet
to the grave with torches and singing,
better to look through the window at Macbeth
and tremble with the hired murderer,
but not this, not this, not this,
this even we aren't capable of reading.

Our poems this week come from 'Poetry of the Second World War: an international anthology', edited by Desmond Graham (Pimlico, £10)

Handwritten signature: JAVICO 1350

Sir Ralph Freeman

SIR RALPH Freeman was the former senior partner at the international civil engineering consultancy Freeman, Fox & Partners and the earliest surviving past-President of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

He was the son of the renowned structural engineer Sir Ralph Freeman, designer of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and founder of Freeman, Fox & Partners. He shared his father's passion for large bridge design and construction – a passion he passed to his son Anthony – and was responsible for the construction of many major projects including the vast Humber suspension bridge – the longest in the world at the time – the Medway Bridge and M2 motorway, the Auckland Harbour Bridge, the Forth Road Bridge, and the Severn and Wye Bridges.

Throughout his long career Freeman dedicated a huge amount of time to the profession through his work for the Institution of Civil Engineers, culminating with his presidency in 1968-69. But his skills also crossed over to the lighter side of engineering, recognised by his knighthood in 1970 while serving as consulting engineer to the Queen, responsible for the upkeep of Sandringham Park, a post he was appointed to in 1949. He was also responsible for managing construction of the South Bank Exhibition, the main showcase for the Festival of Britain in 1951.

Ralph Freeman was born in 1911 and educated at Uppingham School, Leicestershire, and Worcester College, Oxford, where he gained an honours degree in Engineering Science. As a student he worked during the vacations for the steelwork fabricator Dorman Long, both in its Middlesbrough steel works and in London on the construction of Lambeth Bridge and the widening of Putney Bridge across the River Thames.

After graduating, his passion for bridge construction took him to Rhodesia and South Africa with Dorman Long where he spent seven years, from 1932 to 1939, in contracting, building mainly long-span bridges but also the steelworks in Pretoria. It was on one of his long sea trips to Rhodesia that he met Joan Rose from Cape Town. They married in 1939.

His work in Southern Africa in-

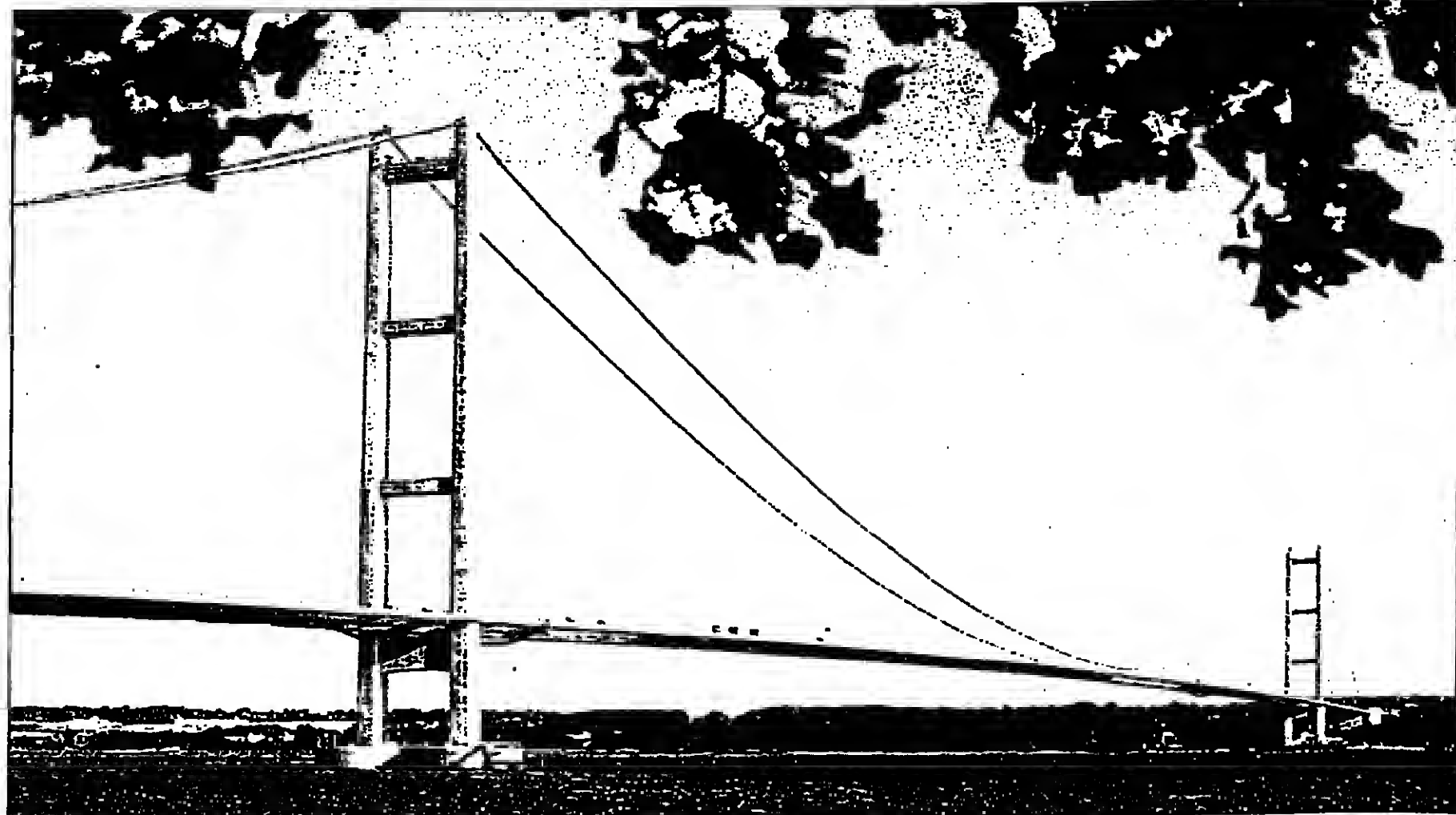
cluded the 320m-span steel Otto Beit suspension bridge across the Zambezi at Chirundu and the 330m steel arch Birchenough Bridge over the Sabi River. Between these two projects he spent six months in Denmark working on the 3.1km steel girder road and rail Storstrom Bridge and then for Braithwaite & Co on an oil pipeline jetty in the Medway. He finally returned to the UK in 1939 to join Freeman, Fox & Partners to work mainly on the design and construction of the Royal Naval Propellant factory in Caerwent, Monmouthshire.

His engineering work did not stop during the war. Freeman served in the Royal Engineers and worked as a Captain in the Experimental Bridging Establishment in Christchurch. There he was involved in the development of a special propped military suspension bridge using Bailey Bridge components – a design later used with great success in Burma.

He was then seconded as chief engineer to 21 Army Group to advise on the construction of Bailey Bridges in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. In 1945 he was appointed MBE (military) and made Knight of the Orange-Nassau (Netherlands) for his war-time efforts. He continued his military links in civilian life by serving in the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve and was made commanding officer of the Engineer and Railway Staff Corp in 1969, a post he held for the maximum permitted five-year period.

After the war he rejoined Freeman Fox and was made a partner in 1947. Two years later he was appointed consulting engineer to King George VI to look after Sandringham Park, an honorary position he continued under Queen Elizabeth until he retired in 1976. He oversaw a variety of building alterations including the complete overhaul of the central-heating system – a job which prompted him to describe himself as "the Queen's plumber".

Freeman Fox's growing reputation for structural excellence led to the award in 1949 of a major commission to design and co-ordinate construction of buildings for the South Bank Exhibition as part of the Festival of Britain. This included the spectacular steel-framed and aluminium-clad Dome of Dis-



The Humber Bridge, designed by Freeman, Fox & Partners. It held the record of the world's longest span bridge from when it opened in 1981 until earlier this year



Freeman spearheaded the firm's work on many of the then biggest projects in the world. These included the M2 and M5 motorways, the Forth Road Bridge, the Severn Bridge, both Bosphorus Bridges in Turkey and the cross-harbour tunnel and mass transit rail systems in Hong Kong

covery exhibition hall – a structure which commanded almost as much controversy as today's Dome at Greenwich.

After the sudden death of his father in early 1950, Freeman assumed personal responsibility for the project. It was completed to a very tight timescale in time for the Festival opening. He was appointed CBE in 1952 for his contribution to it.

The 1950s were an extremely busy time for the expanding Freeman Fox partnership, based mainly around Freeman's love and knowledge of bridges. The firm also took on major commissions around the world to build thermal and hydro-electric power stations including the Festinog pumped storage power station in Wales. By 1958

his reputation for large bridge construction led to the invitation to join an international team of engineers to investigate the partial collapse of a huge cantilever highway bridge under construction in Vancouver in Canada.

Freeman took over as senior partner at Freeman Fox in 1963, a position he held until he retired at the age of 68 in 1979. During this time he spearheaded the firm's work on many of the biggest projects in the world at the time. These included the M2 and M5 motorways, the Forth Road Bridge, the Severn Bridge, both Bosphorus Bridges in Turkey and the cross-harbour tunnel and mass transit rail systems in Hong Kong. He was also intimately involved in the aftermath of the catastrophic collapse in 1970 of steel box

girder bridges in Milford Haven and across the River Yarra in Melbourne.

His career culminated with the construction of the huge Humber Estuary crossing near Hull. When it finally opened in 1981, two years after Freeman's retirement, it was the longest single-span suspension bridge in the world, 1410m between its two 155m-high pylons. The steel deck design used state-of-the-art streamlining to reduce the wind loading and set new standards for suspension bridge design and construction around the world.

Freeman had become a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1937 and a Fellow in 1946. He was elected a member of Council 1951-56 and again in 1956-61 before becoming President in November 1966.

In his presidential address he stressed the need for all branches of engineers to work more closely together and to disseminate information, knowledge and training more effectively through the ranks – themes still discussed at length today. To this end he was a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers from 1943, President of the Welding Institute 1975-77 and an Honorary Fellow of both the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Zimbabwe Institution of Engineers.

Throughout his career he wrote many learned papers and received the Telford Premium Prize with his co-author Sir Hubert Shirley-Smith – president a year after Freeman – for a paper on the Birchenough and Otto Beit Bridges in Rhodesia.

His abundant energy and enthusiasm meant he was able to pack a variety of interests into his life around his engineering. As chairman of the Limsfield Common management committee (1957-83) he successfully chaired an appeal to raise funds and transfer the common to the National Trust in 1972. Like his father, he was the engineering member of the Royal Fine Art Commission and served on the Board of Governors of Westminster Hospital. In 1964 he was made a CVO and two years later he became a member of the Advisory Council for Scientific Research and Development (Army), later the Defence Scientific Advisory Council.

Even after his retirement Sir

Ralph Freeman kept an active interest in civil engineering, particularly through the work of his eldest son, Anthony, who tragically died in July as a result of injuries sustained in an accident on the Vasco da Gama bridge in Lisbon in April 1997.

Father and son would talk continuously of their latest adventures in bridge design and construction whenever they met up. In later years they discussed problems and ideas by telephone and Sir Ralph had a fax machine specially installed at home to transmit diagrams and sketches to and from Anthony around the world.

Freeman's other passions included playing golf, sailing yachts and wood and metal work. He was a prolific writer and a regular contributor to the letters pages of the profession's magazine *New Civil Engineer*, always putting his point forcefully but thoughtfully.

ANTHONY OLIVER

Ralph Freeman, civil engineer; born London 3 February 1911; MBE 1945, CBE 1952; Partner, Freeman, Fox & Partners 1947-79, Senior Partner 1962-79; Consulting Engineer to the Queen for Sandringham Estate 1949-76; Vice-President, Institution of Civil Engineers 1962-66, President 1966-67; CVO 1964; KI 1970; married 1939 Joan Rose (one son, one daughter and one son deceased); died Limsfield, Surrey 24 August 1998.

Jerry Clower

FROM THE minstrel tradition of the black-face duo Jarnum and Honey in the 1930s through the "Golden Age" of Minnie Pearl and Rod Brasfield, to the current red-neck humour of Jeff Foxworthy, comedy has long played an important, if underrated, role in the history of country music.

Simple, direct and invariably drawing on the Southern character, it has been both light relief from the hardships endured by its core audience and a cultural barrier that outsiders have found difficult to surmount. Its appeal is largely regional – a New Yorker is as likely to sit story-faced through such a routine as is a Londoner – but that alone ensures it an audience of millions.

Known as "The Mouth of the Mississippi", Jerry Clower was for nearly 30 years the biggest star in the field, with a string of gold discs, countless television appearances and membership of the famed Grand Ole Opry to his credit.

His monologues were bathed in nostalgia for simpler times and for activities like 'coon hunts, impromptu rodeos, molasses-making and church picnics. Many chronicled the comic misadventures of the fictional Marcel Ledbetter and his family, whilst others were laced with an overt and sometimes distasteful patriotism. Although he always maintained that his shows were firmly family-oriented, his humour occasionally verged on the amusingly tasteless. A memorable publicity shot, for example, shows him cradling a 'coonhound under his right arm whilst balancing a chainsaw on his left knee.

As with many comics, he loved the interaction a performer has with his audience and refused to use canned laughter on his albums, believing it to be dishonest. "I am convinced," he once declared, "that there is only one place where there is no laughter and that's Hell. I have made arrangements to miss Hell. Praise God, I won't ever have to be anywhere that there ain't no laughter."

Born in Liberty, Mississippi, close to the Louisiana border, Clower



joined the US Navy on graduating from high school but found himself drawn increasingly to the world of farming. On leaving the navy, he enrolled at Junior College before heading to Mississippi State University on the back of a football scholarship. He graduated with a degree in agriculture and joined the Mississippi Chemical Company, based in Yazoo City, where he eventually rose to become Director of Field Sales.

He began to develop a series of routines based on his early life, using them to enliven his sales patter and when these proved popular was persuaded to record them for the local Lemon label. Entitled *Jerry Clower from Yazoo City, Mississippi*, *Talkin'* (1971), the disc sold so well that Clower found himself signed to MCA. His albums for the label included *Clower Power* (1973), *Country Ham* (1974), *The Ledbetter Olympics* (1980), *Dogs I Have Known* (1985) and *Top Gum* (1987), which featured a rather bizarre country rap number.

In 1973 he joined the cast of Nashville's *Grand Ole Opry*, going on to become, with his gaudy suits and outgoing personality, a popular fixture on the television chatshow circuit. He also wrote four books including *Ain't God Good* (1977) and, more recently, *Stories From Home* (1993) and for 10 years running was named "Country Comic of the Year".

A devout man, Jerry Clower was a deacon of the First Baptist Church of Yazoo City and enjoyed a long-time association with the Gideon Bible Society. In 1997 the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame presented him with its Distinguished American Award. Yazoo City honoured the man who made it famous by renaming a local thoroughfare Jerry Clower Boulevard.

PAUL WADEY

Jerry Clower, comedian; born Liberty, Mississippi 28 September 1926; married 1947 Homerline Wells (one son, three daughters); died Jackson, Mississippi 24 August 1998.

Patrick Bailey

PATRICK BAILEY was one of Britain's finest and foremost geographical educators. Over the years, he did much to promote Geography as a school subject and to enhance the teaching of the subject in schools.

Born in 1925, after leaving school and spending time in the Royal Navy, Bailey studied Geography at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, from 1947 to 1951 and subsequently at McGill University, Montreal. For much of his professional career, he taught at the School of Education, Leicester University, in the latter years combining this with undergraduate teaching in the Geography Department.

Before coming to Leicester in 1969, Bailey had taught in Norfolk. His first post was at Paston Grammar School, from where he moved on to become Head of Geography at Wyndham College. Later he was Principal Lecturer at Northumbria College of Education at Ponteland from 1964 to 1968, where he met and subsequently married Peggy, his lifetime companion.

Bailey was a central figure in the activities of the Geographical Association, both nationally and locally for many years. He was editor of the very valuable *Teaching Geography* publication in the period 1974 to 1985. In 1997, he was made an honorary member of the association for his

contributions to Geography. In the late Eighties, he was significantly President of the association at a time when Geography was obliged by the then Secretary of State for Education, Sir Keith Joseph, to justify its place in the school curriculum. In *A Case for Geography* (1987, co-edited with Tony Binns), a spirited advocacy of the subject was argued on behalf of the members of the Geographical Association.

At the local level, in the flourishing Leicester Geographical Association, Bailey was indefatigable in his support for a wide range of activities, organising conferences for sixth-formers, giving frequent lectures and chairing sessions in his own inimitable style.

He was a prolific writer of books, articles and reviews. He was the author of *The Norwich Area* (1971) in the British Landscapes through Maps series, *Orkney* (1971), part of the Islands series, and also of *Teaching Geography* (1974). His last major publication for the association, the *Geography Teachers' Handbook* (1996), which he co-edited with Peter Fox, was a mammoth effort which will be an indispensable text for many years to come.

Many geography teachers who received their initial teacher training at Leicester, and more recently at Loughborough, where he taught part-time following his retirement

from Leicester, have much to thank him for. He set and expected very high standards in all that he did: course planning, supporting students in their teaching and, not least, in his own teaching.

His talks were a role model for students and teachers alike, honed to a very high standard; a choice quotation, an original slant, a skilfully crafted argument, superb illustrations – slides, field sketches, maps and diagrams were his trademark.

Bailey's enthusiasm for his subject was infectious, his love of teaching boundless – sometimes he even found it difficult not to intervene in the classroom when advising and supporting students on teaching practice. He was equally at ease introducing interested lay people into the delights of town trails and countryside walks.

Behind the teacher/scholar, Patrick Bailey was a very compassionate, thoughtful and caring man, generous in his praise of work done well, and very supportive of his close colleagues as well as his tutees. It was a measure of his inner strength and belief – he was a Christian Scientist – that in spite of a very debilitating illness he continued to be stimulating, interested, alert, and active in promoting the cause of geographical education.

The award of an Honorary Fel-



lowship by the Royal Geographical Society shortly before his death, following similar recognition in Poland and Portugal, was a well deserved accolade and one of which he was justifiably proud.

ALAN SUTTON

Patrick John Mumford Bailey, geographer and educationist; born London 31 December 1925; Principal Lecturer in Geography, Northumbria College of Education, Ponteland 1964-68; Senior Lecturer in Education, Leicester University 1969-87; married 1963 Peggy Douglas; died Leicester 16 July 1998.

Karl Schirdewan

IN DAVID Childs's obituary of Karl Schirdewan (10 August) there is one significant error, writes Peter Barker.

Schirdewan was not born in Königsberg, but in Stettin. I recently came across this fact when researching an encyclopedia entry on Schirdewan. In GDR reference works he always stated that he was born into a working-class family in

Königsberg, but he was hiding the fact that his real family came from Stettin and had a higher social status. The standard biographical work on the GDR which has appeared since unification, *Wer war wer in der DDR*, repeated this mistake in its first edition (1994), but corrected it in its third edition of 1996 after the discovery of relevant files in the SED archive.

I WAS aware that there was controversy about the place of birth of Karl Schirdewan, writes Professor David Childs. However, as his friends in the PDS, who announced his death, kept to his claim that he was born in Königsberg, I felt it was right to leave it at that.

A significant number of Germans changed details of their place of birth after the Second World War for po-

litical reasons and it is not always possible to get proper verification, especially in towns which were overrun by the Red Army. Many of the files in Königsberg and Stettin were destroyed, causing great inconvenience for some and great opportunities for others. It will be interesting to see what appears in Schirdewan's autobiography which is due to appear shortly.

Dr J. C. 15.10.98



Sergio Fiorentino

THE PIANIST Sergio Fiorentino was an extraordinary artist who turned his back on the concert platform at the peak of his powers to concentrate on teaching and returned two decades later with formidable technique and musicality undiminished to an acclaim that most artists only dream of.

A critic wrote recently that Fiorentino's life appeared to consist of a hard luck history "that nearly outshines *Shine*", but that is true only insofar as Fiorentino was badly hurt in an air crash in 1954 which put a temporary end to illustrious engagements throughout Europe and America at a time when he was being described as the most promising pianist of his generation.

His later decision to remove himself entirely from public performance until the end of his life, while complex, was entirely his own and one he did not appear to regret.

A scholarship personally awarded by the Minister of Education took Fiorentino to the San Pietro Majella Conservatory in 1938, and although his teachers were among the most distinguished of their time he was fond of saying that his influences came from watching Alfred Cortot, Walter Gieseking and Edwin Fischer, or from listening to recordings, principally those of Rachmaninov playing his own music. Fiorentino had a special affinity with the music of the Russian master and it played an important and significant part in his repertoire throughout his life.

From 1947, the young virtuoso, small, slim and totally undernourished at the keyboard, began to be noticed in Europe. He was awarded first prize of the Concorso Rossiniani in Naples and the International Competition of his Academia Musicale Internazionale in Genoa. The leading agents sought him out and by 1953 he had made his American debut in the Carnegie Hall. All seemed set for

the predicted glittering career, but the following year while on tour in South America the aircraft carrying him crashed. He sustained a severe spinal injury and, for some time, paralysis. He could not physically play for some years and once told me that when he was able to return to the instrument he had to relearn some of his technique.

By the late 1950s he decided to set about re-establishing himself and embarked on a series of recordings in Britain, principally for Saga, Fidelity, Summit and their regularly reincarnated successors which often offered intriguing budget-priced repertoire at five shillings (25p) a time, but sometimes let down by playing surfaces which ap-

pear to have been prepared from a mixture of vinyl with fine road grit. Most were never reviewed as a result. Through all this shone some magnificent playing: memorable recordings of the complete Rachmaninov preludes, a Brahms Handel Variations in which the opening mimicry of harpsichord appears never to have been equalled, and some Liszt recitals with deeply musical virtuosity. Added to this was a virtually complete survey of Chopin and performances of Bach-Busoni that alone would have set him apart as a performer.

Quite why he decided in 1974 to give up playing concerts and return to a professional role at the Conservatory where he had studied is not entirely

Fiorentino's return to the platform must be one of the rare examples of an enthusiast persuading a professional to think again

clear, but one suspects it was a combination of events allied to his self-effacing and non-combative temperament. He disliked the publicity machine that often went with concerts and although completely confident of his own ability at the keyboard was so modest that the tendency of promoters and record companies to compete for the "greatest pianist" accolade or to make comparisons genuinely appalled him.

Quiet and unassuming, he felt ill at ease on the cocktail circuit simply because he could not see the purpose of it. All these things, together with the generally unattractive life of an itinerant musician, led him to withdraw to the comparative obscurity of a teaching role.

When the knowledgeable Bryan Cramp, founder of APE Recordings and one of the best judges of the great pianists of this century, made a live tape of one of those performances and issued it to general acclaim, it marked the renaissance of Fiorentino and his return to the recording studio after a 30-year absence.

Everything began to happen for him. He was invited to China to give concerts and master classes and began to appear on the adjudication panels of various competitions as well as fitting in concerts at prestigious European events. What became annual appearances at the Newport Festival, where he was booked "for life", led to the sort of critical adulation that is rarely seen today. He was dubbed a pianist of the Golden Age and was lauded wherever he went.

Recording plans were laid into the new millennium but his death, at home suddenly and without suffering, means they will not be fulfilled. The deep musical insights which he used to turn the most familiar repertoire into a revelation and his understanding of composers from Bach to Scriabin will ensure that his name and stature remain at the forefront wherever great piano playing is appreciated.

ALAN M. WATKINS
Sergio Fiorentino, pianist: born Naples, Italy 22 December 1927; married; died Naples 22 August 1998.

He was quickly dispelled both by enthusiasm of Lumpe (whose achievements cannot be overrated) and of audiences thrilled to discover this master pianist in their midst. Bach-Busoni, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev, Tausig and some forgotten whittier transcriptions of Die Fledermaus and the Strauss waltzes were hurled at audiences who quickly realised they were in the presence of someone quite exceptional.

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HISTORICAL NOTES

FINIAN CUNNINGHAM

The political fall-out from Hiroshima

WHEN THE US Air Force dropped the atomic bombs 53 years ago on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, mankind had, as Albert Camus put it, "surely reached its final degree of savagery".

The accepted explanation for why the administration of President Harry Truman dropped the bombs was that it brought a swift end to the Pacific war and thus saved many more lives than those lost at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This first and only use of atomic weapons was, it has been claimed, a classic case of the end justifying the means.

But what if this "end" is shown to be false, and that the real reason for the atomic holocaust was not the swift termination of hostilities but an entirely different purpose, namely the staking out of Western geopolitical territory in the emerging post-war world order?

From April 1945 American officials calculated that using the atomic bomb would enormously bolster US diplomacy vis-à-vis the Soviet Union in negotiations over both post-war Europe and the Far East. The ascendancy of "atomic diplomacy" coincided with the presidential succession of the fiercely anti-Communist Truman.

A defining moment of the new diplomacy occurred during the Potsdam conference on 13 July when Truman was cabled from Washington on the success of the "Trinity" test explosion in the New Mexico desert. It was the first practical demonstration of awesome atomic power.

The news transformed Truman's diplomacy at Potsdam. He immediately began dominating the proceedings, telling the Russians "where to get on and off". Possession of the bomb gave Truman the "master card" over the Soviets, recorded the US war secretary Henry Stimson.

The Soviets planned to enter the Pacific war against Japan on 8 August; the Western allies were anxious they should not gain any geopolitical territory in resource-rich Asia, as they had done in Europe.

During the summer of 1945 when the Japanese empire began rapidly to collapse, the first concern of Truman and his inner circle was not the further loss of American lives, but the further loss of political ground in the new world order taking shape.

Japan may have been the military target of the US atomic attack first on Hiroshima



Truman: fiercely anti-Communist

on 6 August, and then three days later on Nagasaki, but there seems little doubt from the evidence that the ultimate political target was Moscow.

On hearing of the annihilation of two Japanese cities in which 95 per cent of the victims were civilian, Josef Stalin was said to have been "frozen". The Soviets had no nuclear weapon project and may not even have had the rudiments of the theory.

The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki turned out to be not the last act of the Second World War but the first act of the Cold War. It was a deliberate act of aggression by the US, designed to lay down the most terrifying marker on the new world order to the Soviets.

By 1948, however, the Soviet Union had tested its first atomic bomb. Fear and distrust in international relations had become entrenched and the world was now forced to live under the shadow of mutually assured destruction.

The fall-out from the atomic attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was inestimably far-reaching: all malignant manifestations of the nuclear age can be traced to that fateful decision to drop the bombs.

It is important to lay bare the bankrupt moral authority of great power status. It provides an important step towards getting rid of all nuclear weapons - by uncovering the real causes of history, we may be spared its horrendous repetition.

'Hiroshima's Shadow - writings on the denial of history' is published by Central Books (£20.90)

A mirror in which every age sees its reflection

IN THE Polish epic *The Knights of the Teutonic Order*, set in the early Middle Ages, a Knight is tortured, his tongue is cut out, and he is imprisoned in an iron box for several years. He is eventually liberated from his confinement and shambles out, grey-haired, sightless and tongueless, to rediscover a world whose features he can only guess at. This is not light-years away from my worst nightmares about the Chateau d'I on the South Bank.

But reality is comfortably different. The National Theatre is not an immutable bureaucracy nor is it a cultural colossus riddled with the virus of institutional inertia. It is - to state what ought to be obvious - a theatre; or to be more obvious still, three theatres within one building; and people work in these theatres for the traditional reasons that are often loftily dismissed as sentimental: a sense of community, a desire to share a common purpose.

The National Theatre exists to do work which either by content or by execution, or both, could not be performed - or would not be initiated - in the commercial sector. It provides continuity of "investment", of employment and of theatrical tradition, and this requires a subsidy to supplement the revenue from the box office.

Recently, a wild attempt has been made to blur the distinction between the subsidised and the commercial theatre in order to argue that there is no longer any real need for subsidy: if market forces can prevail for large nationalised businesses, so they should for large theatrical companies. (This is, of course, to ignore the fact that

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

1 SEPTEMBER 1988

Richard Eyre takes over today as Director of the National Theatre. He presents here his manifesto for action

every night of the week, 52 weeks a year, the NT places 2,300 seats for sale in the "marketplace" and depends for its survival on at least 1,750 of them.) The case for the existence of subsidised theatres is made on their stages and the only questions worth asking are, "Is what I see on the stage any good?" and "What does it mean to me?"

The policy of the National Theatre has been diverse and pluralistic and will remain so. At heart I'm a populist, but I don't mean by this that all standards are reduced to the common denominator of "popular" culture; merely that art can and should be popular and accessible even if its content is complex and disturbing. And so composing the content of the repertoire will always be a balancing act between adventure and caution; between known classics and the unknown; recent plays and new ones. But the spine of the work will always be the classics, which are our genetic link with the past and our means of decoding the present.

Every age sees its own reflection in these plays. We find

in them not the past throwing a shadow on the present, but an image of ourselves. The classics survive because of what they mean to us now.

But we have to keep rediscovering ways of doing them. They do not have absolute meanings. There is no fixed, frozen way of doing them. When there is talk of "classical acting" what is often meant is an acting style that instead of revealing the truth of a text for the present-day reveals the bombast of yesterday. "Dog acting", a friend of mine calls it: cocking a leg on the furniture, barking heartily, and growing to display all the emotions from A to B.

The larger part of our classical repertoire is the collection of plays written between 1880 and 1940. Almost all these are in verse, and there's the rub. Any attempt to come to terms with them must confront their form; the life of the plays in the language, not alongside it or underneath it. It's impossible to overestimate the difficulties. The decay of language as an expressive force is evident everywhere, and it is hardly surprising that it is rare to find young actors who have a grasp of verse speaking.

If we are to tackle those plays where language is the principal mode of expression we have to be prepared to embrace the difficulties rather than ignore them. A truly successful Shakespeare performance is about as rare as a dry day in June, but when seen it is, as Coleridge said of Keats, "like reading Shakespeare by flashes of lightning".

From *'The Independent'*, Thursday 1 September 1988

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
petard, n.

Petard and a Home Security firm called *Petard*. A non-boist *petard* without a capital P is a rare creature indeed. A *petard* was a type of

battering ram with an explosive head. To be hoist with one's own *petard* is to be blown up with one's own weapons. "For 'tis the sport to have the engineer hoist with his own *petard*" (*Hamlet*, Act III, scene 4). The word has a nice etymology: it comes from the same root as the French verb *péter*, to break wind.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

KERSLAKE: Mr George W. Kerslake, who before retirement worked for the London Co-operative Society, was a lifetime member of the Labour Party and in earlier years was active in the trade union movement. Mr Kerslake is survived by his daughter, Pauline, and son-in-law, Colonel W. Andrew Wisdom, of Middleburg, Virginia, USA. Service will be held Thursday 3 September, at 3.30pm, East London Crematorium, Grange Road, Plaistow, E15. Enquiries: T. Cribb & Sons, 0171-476 1855.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in memoriam) are charged at £8.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2600.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Komei Abe, composer, 87; Sir Kenneth Bradshaw, former Clerk of the House of Commons, 76; Mr Richard Burden MP, 44; Sir David Carter, chief medical officer, Scottish Office Department of Health, 58; Professor Ronald Cooke, Vice-Chancellor, York University, 57; Mr Richard Edis, ambassador to Tunisia, 55; Mr Gwynfor Evans, honorary president, Plaid Cymru, 88; Mrs Margaret Ewing MP, 53; Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Freer, 75; Mr Barry Gibb, singer, 52; Mr Allen Jones, artist, 61; Mr Fraser Kemp MP, 40; Baroness Park of Monmouth, former Principal, Somerville College, Oxford, 77; Lord Parkinson, former government minister, 67; Miss Jessica Pearce, ambassador to Belarus, 41; Mr Milton Shulman, film and theatre critic, 80; Lord Thomson of Fleet, newspaper proprietor, 74.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Edward Alley, actor and founder of Dulwich Col-

lege, 1566; Marguerite Gardiner, Countess Blessington, writer and journalist, 1788; Zerah Colburn, infant prodigy in mathematics, 1804; Amilcare Ponchielli, composer, 1834; Engelbert Humperdinck, composer, 1854; Baron Carl Auer von Welsbach, chemist, inventor of the gas mantle, 1858; Sir Roger David Casement, conspirator for Irish nationalism, 1864; "Gentleman Jim" James John Corbett, heavyweight boxer, 1866; Edgar Rice Burroughs, novelist and creator of "Tarzan", 1875; Rex Ellingwood Beach, novelist, 1877; Rocky Marciano (Rocco Marchegiano), heavyweight boxer, 1923.

Deaths: Hadrian IV, Pope (Nicholas Breakspear, the only Englishman to be Pope), 1159; Jacques Cartier, explorer, 1557; Louis XIV, the "Sun King" of France, 1715; Sir Richard Steele, essayist and playwright, 1729; William Yarrell, zoologist, 1856; Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, composer, 1912; Guy Burgess, defector, 1963; Siegfried Lorraine Sassoon, poet and writer, 1967; François Mauriac, poet and novelist, 1970.

On this day: the destruction of Jerusalem under Titus took place, 70; the Covenanters were defeated by Montrose at Tippermuir, 1644; the world's first triangular postage stamps were issued by the Cape of Good Hope, 1853; the foundation stone of the Ottawa Parliament building was laid by the Prince of Wales, 1860; Cannon Street railway terminus, in London, was opened for passenger traffic, 1868; Britain signed a peace treaty with the Zulus, 1879; the Severn Tunnel was opened for goods traffic, 1886; in Russia, St Petersburg was renamed Petrograd, 1914; nearly 200,000 people were killed in earthquakes in Tokyo and Yokohama, 1923; Albania was declared a kingdom, and Zogu I became king, 1928; Poland was invaded by Germany, and Danzig Free City was seized, 1939; after overthrowing King Idris I, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi seized power in Libya, 1969; Qatar became independent, 1971.

Today is the Feast Day of St Drithelm, St Flacre, St Giles or Agidius, St Lupus or Lew of Sens, St Priscus of Capua, St Sebba and St Verena.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York visits the Alfred McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire; visits the Kirkcaldy Media Centre Cyber Cafe, Huddersfield; as Patron, the Fire Service Sports and Athletics Association, attends the opening ceremony of the Fire Services European Volleyball Championships at the Huddersfield Sports Centre; and visits the Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, "Picturing Women (I): female portraits of the Italian Renaissance", 1pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Granla Lyster, "Dutch and Flemish Landscape Painting", 1pm.

On your bike: this is war

Cyclists think they're doing the world a favour. To other road users they're a lawless menace. Pedal rage, anyone? By Darius Sanai

LAST WEEK Weston-super-Mare resolved to do its bit to halt global warming by lending a load of bikes to young people. Little do the good people of Weston know what trouble they have stored up for themselves with this apparently worthy gesture.

They will learn. The summer truce is over and one of the world's most vicious gang wars is set to break out, with renewed ferocity, across the streets of Britain. From Dover to Dundee the hardened gang members are honing their weapons and preparing for battle. Unlike the pampered denizens of Los Angeles and the Chicago South Side, Britons will not be sheltered from the fighting if they stay clear of the ghettos; this turf war is taking place on every highway and byway. And it's lethal: every year, people get killed, more are wounded, and thousands of others are left quivering in their seats as witnesses to the mindless carnage.

The war is a universal one and the gangs incorporate virtually every citizen of the United Kingdom, whether they want to belong or not. For all of us have, at one time, been pedestrians, cyclists, bikers or motorists. John Prescott may talk about making our roads safer, happier places but, as Britain's population is brought up to normal again by the return from the Costa, the ugly truth will dawn. It's war out there. Our street violence is a serious business: 973 pedestrians were killed last year, as were 2,826 other road-users, and even the

most seemingly innocuous battles can be deadly: six cyclists and pedestrians died last year after crashing into each other.

Last year, a grandmother chased a 13-year-old cyclist and knocked him down with her car; a fireman repeatedly bashed the head of a cyclist against a wall; a cyclist threw his bike at the windscreen of a car. Martin Shaw was attacked by a bus-driver after shouting at him for cutting him up as he cycled down a London street.

No matter how much cyclists believe they are doing the rest of the world a favour, the rest of the traffic – whether motorised or on foot – does not agree.

"They're a menace," said one man, walking his dog gingerly along the pavement. "They take no notice of red lights or pedestrians, whether it's a pram or a pushchair. What's worse, they knock you over as they cycle past, and then look back with a gesture of contempt. In the great battle for the pecking order, they think they have moral superiority. They feel they're victims of trucks, but to us pedestrians they are just as much bullies as any trucks."

London cabbies are scarcely less irate, but the object of their ire are other road users of all descriptions. Raymond Games, a 47-year-old London taxi-driver, said: "What amazes me is so many pedestrians act like they're blind. I've seen a woman walk straight into the path of a cab in front of me – bam!" (He thumps his fist into his hand.) "I used to keep wary all the time,

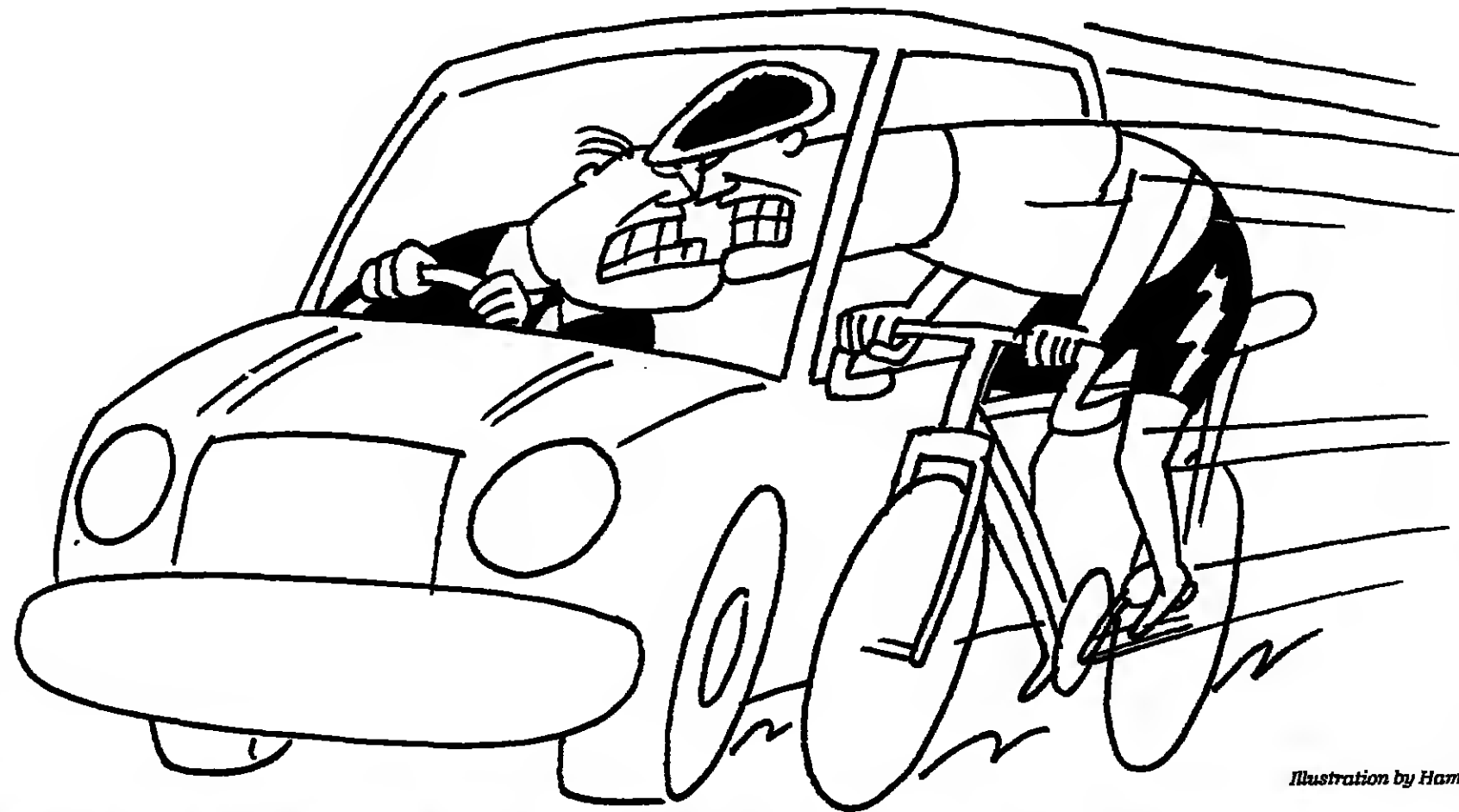


Illustration by Ham

but now, if get another idiot stepping off the kerb without looking, I don't know that I'll slow down, even if I can". His mate, a spindly chap who didn't want to give his name, blames motorists. "You're sitting at the lights and five of those couriers slip in and stand in front of you. You gotta try not to lose it in this job, but I've half a mind

sick of getting out of their way when they do something stupid. In a car I can just put my foot down in this and get out of trouble."

Others are more protective of the vulnerable creatures on two wheels.

"This guy was driving like an idiot in this Golf on the A2," said Paul Ross, a 31-year-old researcher who had stopped for petrol.

"I used to keep wary all the time, but now, if I get another idiot stepping off the kerb without looking I don't know that I'll slow down even if I can"

to step on it and flatten 'em all." He laughs wheezy. "Maybe I could get stickers, like stick one inside my cab for every one I get."

"If cyclists want to cut me up that's their problem," said Wayne McKinsey, who was reloading his red Peugeot 306 GTT at the Texaco station on the Talgarth Roundabout. "I'm not trying to hit them, but I'm

He was weaving in and out of all the busy lanes, and he almost killed a guy on a motorbike – he had to swerve to get out of his way." So did Paul take him on?

"No, I called the local police station on my mobile phone and told them what was going on. They said they'd go round to his house with a warning."

On London's Embankment last week, several hundred cyclists gathered at the height of the evening rush hour to test the tempers of other road users in the monthly Critical Mass run. This event is replicated in cities across the world; it involves a gang of cyclists stretching across one entire side of a road and pedalling at their own pace to a destination chosen at random by the lead cyclist. "Last time we ended up having a party in a disused petrol station on the City Road," says one of the organisers, "with music from a pedal-powered hi-fi system."

Patrick Field, head of the London Cycling School, brings a Sufic philosophy to the battlefield: "I don't get angry at motorists. I feel sorry for them," he says. This approach makes life much easier during confrontations: "I tell them there's no need for bad language, and ask if they've had a bad day."

In the end, he says, "it's not cyclists that hold them up. It's other cars." So they're just jealous.

The cyclists on Critical Mass believe that bogging the road is a neat turn-

around from the normal situation when they are squeezed out, often dangerously, by motor vehicles.

Even the normally serene spokeswoman from the Department of Transport was moved to fury when I brought up the question of which gang, statistically, was most dangerous to belong to.

"I'll tell you what's dangerous," she rapped. "It's bloody dangerous to be a pedestrian, because of all the cyclists on the bloody pavement! That's what's dangerous. You tell them it's illegal. I got rear-ended walking down Whitehall last week."

One cyclist claimed to have been flattened more than once by motorists – and in one case, a black cab – pulling out of side turnings without looking.

"You're completely vulnerable," he said. "Drivers tear past you without leaving an inch to spare. They just never look for you."

She also had an explanation for the fury so often displayed by cyclists in any confrontation with drivers – one which the good citizens of Weston-super-Mare might do well to heed. "It's fear."

You're never too young to be old

How does it feel to be old? Twenty-five-year-old Alex Hayes put on goggles, ear plugs and a helpless manner and went to find out

WHEN YOU are young and fit, it's hard to sympathise with the limitations of old age. Young people are more likely to seethe and rev their engines than to empathise with the little old lady wobbling slowly across the road.

With the aim of increasing understanding of the handicaps of old age, I have been muscled into taking part in Through Other Eyes – a scientific experiment to raise people's awareness of a very real social problem. In other words, show us how it actually feels to be old. I was escorted on this mission by Gaby Brooks and Sharon Steele of Age Concern.

Age Concern believes that most of the younger population have no idea how difficult it is for some elderly people to perform everyday tasks such as open a milk carton or shop, let alone deal with more arduous chores. "Our ultimate aim is for people to realise how their mother or granny might feel," explains Ms Steele. "Once you see how your close relatives are struggling, your attitude towards the aged automatically changes. The next time you're at a

supermarket till or behind a slow-moving elderly lady in the street, you're likely to show more patience."

The experiment involves wearing ankle and wrist weights to simulate loss of strength and agility, putting on specially prepared goggles, to represent cataracts, tunnel vision and retina damage, and inserting ear plugs to reduce hearing.

According to the charity's research, "the United Kingdom is an ageing society and, by the year 2026, half the adult population will be aged 55 or over. It is also significant that 80 per cent of the UK's private wealth is in the hands of people over 50, who are also the biggest spenders in every sector". Significant because supermarkets, department stores and other services obviously need older buyers. Fail to accommodate their needs and you risk alienating a large share of your target audience. Ms Steele admits that the original reason for companies showing an interest in the scheme is economic. "But, after their staff have done our workshop, their attitudes do change."

At first all the contraptions make me feel very self-conscious and unsure. "That's exactly how most old people feel," Ms Steele points out. "Many of them lose confidence when they go out, especially if they are in a foreign environment." I certainly struggled. The weights (half a kilo around my wrist and one kilo around my ankle) weren't too cumbersome, but the inflatable orange armband did cut off the circulation in my arm. If I had had to carry shopping bags for any length of time, I would have found the experience difficult, if not impossible. The surgical gloves on each hand also made simple tasks more awkward, as did the goggles.

The combination of these two impairments was truly challenging. When paying for some flowers, which I could barely see, I struggled desperately to get change out of my pocket, let alone differentiate between the various coins.

Had my manner changed significantly when I was "old"? "You were definitely affected," says Ms Steele. "When you were buying the flowers, you cocked your

head to hear the vendor clearly. And you crossed the street over-cautiously, even though the traffic had stopped."

So will I now be more sympathetic towards older people? "The aim of the workshop is not for people to feel sorry for the aged and tip-toe around them. A lot of them actually cope very well with their disabilities. What we're trying to say is that there's no need for some of the present barriers to be there."

These "barriers" are often small, seemingly insignificant obstacles, which prove insurmountable for the elderly. "For example, the colour schemes that some organisations use to promote their products prevent older people from seeing the price on the tag. Another example is the excessive use of mirrors in shops. It can be very confusing and disorientating. These are artificial barriers; aesthetic additions which serve no practical purpose. I mean, why put a stair in a building if it's not needed?"

Age Concern has carried out its workshop in large companies such as Safeway



Alex Hayes wearing Age Concern's peninsular simulator

and Nestle. The workshops take half a day, cost between £595 to £895, and can accommodate a maximum of 12 people. And the scheme is making waves. Earlier this year, British Gas agreed to sponsor them. "They give us money to develop the programme, market it and renew some of the equipment."

On a personal level, my greatest achievement was threading a needle and sewing a button on to a piece of fabric despite my blurry vision and shaking hands. Now, for someone with a dreadful sewing record (one poorly sewn shirt-button in 25 years), this was no mean feat. Ironically, though – now that the contraptions have been removed – I will have to wait 40-odd years before I sew as expertly again. In the meantime, old people around Britain will continue raking it in on Bingo night. That's the injustice of being young.

For further information about Age Concern, call 0800 00 99 66; or contact Sharon Steele on 01543 504640 or Gabriella Brooks on 0181-679 8000

REVELATIONS

RALPH STEADMAN, LOUISVILLE, 1970

"DO YOU want to meet an ex-hell's angel who shaves his head?"

Being in America to look for work, my reply was yes. That's how I found this buddy, this soul mate, Hunter S Thompson; our assignment was to cover the prestigious Kentucky Derby in Louisville. There was this 6ft 6in guy with a discoloured bone head – it looked like a bullet – set on shoulders that didn't need any more muscle. Hunter could have been an American footballer. He had huge feet size 12 or even 14 – in these flat plimsoll-type things he used to wear. I've always tried to find a pair of shoes to suit me, but he found one early on. Hunter found out everything early on; he wanted to be a great writer but was rejected by the Athenaeum Literary Heritage Club of Louisville. So he was home to enact some kind of revenge. He didn't want a photographer; he wanted an artist who could find the face of Kentucky. I thought, Jesus, he's lived a totally different life to me. I was 33; most people would be in

their stride by then but I wasn't. But Hunter had been told I could give as good as I got, and I did.

I climbed into his red whale of a car, with two buckets of beer on ice behind the front seats, and went to meet his brother. So far I had made no sketches, or notes, too intimidated to do either. But my head was buzzing with strange impressions. I pull back, mentally unwinding a spring. What I don't realise is just how intently I am watching someone, fascinated by a blemish on their nose or the way an eye works. I thought drawing was a bona fide activity and in England people treasure caricatures of themselves – perhaps the rudeness of the better, because you've got to make them laugh. What I didn't realise is that in different cultures, and Kentucky is a different culture, it's an insult. They are quite likely to ask you to step outside, and beat the shit out of you. I started drawing Hunter's brother and made it darker and darker and more hideous as lines covered lines. Hunter started fidgeting and

making lame excuses until he told me I had a nasty habit. I asked him what he meant? "You keep doing filthy drawings of people. They are beginning to look at you and become horrified, unable to believe it's really them that you're drawing. It is obscene; you've got to stop it!" In fact, Hunter had to Mace a restaurant in Kentucky so we could escape alive. I remember a black tube and a fine hissing sound. My eyes began to sting and everybody screamed. Hunter yelled at me to get out! What he did was even worse – all I do is look at people. But he saved me. It was the first time I realised that what I do can be construed as a rather unpleasant habit. How dare I make these rather presumptuous comments about somebody I'm staring at?

The act of Gonzo might be just as mindless as soccer hooligans but Hunter and I went out of our way to actually do something – making out that we were boozed fide journalists covering the Kentucky Derby. We got in because I was speaking in my



very proper accent telling officials I'd come all the way from the London Times. It was a completely irresponsible way of going about journalism – no story became a story. Hunter ended up writing about what happened to us; he hadn't even started his writing while I was doing my drawings. We turned failure into a virtue – that was Gonzo. Hunter and I are chalk and cheese – that was the bond. Although entirely different, I was watching people in a way he was leeching into. I was leeching on to his use of language. Two

different types of leeches doing the same thing.

Hunter also taught me that when I was doing something outrageous to double the outrage. Together we slipped in between the boats in the America's cup to write: FUCK THE POPE along the side of one of them with a spray can. We did have some noble purpose, though it was a jailable offence. These boats were manned by rednecks, some of them Catholics, and the idea of seeing them sailing into the harbour with that graffiti on their hull was a brilliant political concept. We then rushed back to our boat and let off distress flares up into the bay, to symbolise our failure, and set some yachts on fire. It deflected attention, and we were able to get away.

I had the idea that there was a wicked world out there, my mother defended me so well. Hunter would criticise me for being so English and "nice" – it's a horrible word. I needed to meet somebody to blast me out of that cocoon. It took me a long time to

reach the frame of mind where I decide the image – irrespective of the story that I'm illustrating. I don't give a shit if somebody understands it or not. I like it, I appreciate it and if I'm enjoying it – someone else will too. That's something else I learnt from Hunter: "if you're chicken-livered, forget it. You'll never achieve anything. But if you want to take the ride, you pay for the whole ride." The edge can be very creative. It made me realise who the real enemy are; I know who I'm after. Previously my anger had no purpose or direction. I chose to draw one person over another normally out of the desire to throttle them. Not a murderous thought, just that I couldn't stand the way their nose twitched; how some people moved their mouth was infuriating. I was going through life unable to stand the sight of people. Meeting Hunter S Thompson made me laugh at it. By easing off, I began to do outrageous things with my cartoons instead.

If I go on making mischief, I

think it will be more in books – I'm not very keen on the fish-wrap approach of newspapers. If I'm doing something I want it to last, so people can look back at an opinion from that time and discover that it may still be relevant. But it would be funny if someone tried to wrap fish and chips in my new book, perhaps I should buy a portion and eat them out of it! That's Gonzo!

I have curbed my tendency to stare, judge and hate people partly with the help of therapy, because I began to think it was me that was the problem. I did three months; strangely enough the therapist's name was Dr. Thompson... I think it would be worse if I stopped drawing, and didn't recycle my observations. It could become very unhealthy – at least now there is an excuse. It's for art, so I can do anything I want. Otherwise I'd be prosecuted as a stalker.

Gonzo – The Art' is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £25

INTERVIEW BY ANDREW G MARSHALL

Stopped 60 times, never arrested

The police are eight times more likely to stop a black man than a white. Just ask Oluwa. By Sebastian Naidoo



Oluwa Kubweza has been stopped 60 times in his jeep: 'I've asked several times whether they're stopping me because I'm black'

Neville Elder

HIS FIRST time was at the age of 15. By his late teens he'd lost track of how many prickly encounters he'd had. Ten years later he reckons it happens about once a month. And now he hardly breaks out in a sweat.

"There's never been a reason for me to run into the police," says 27-year-old Oluwa Kubweza from behind the wheel of his black Vitar Jeep. "I've never been arrested or taken into custody. My cars have always been legal. I've got to the stage where I say as little as possible. I know the score. I give them my details, and ask for the producer," he says.

Mr Kubweza has been stopped more than 60 times over the past six years. He is a physics graduate and is currently working as a sales executive for a Surrey advertising company. He is also a regular at his local police station in Tottenham, north London, where he goes to "produce" his driving licence and insurance documents when asked.

"I try to rationalise their behaviour. I've asked several times whether they're stopping me because I'm black. They say they're just doing routine checks," he says. "Once when I asked, we ended up in verbal abuse. He swore at me, saying all blacks are muggers."

On another occasion, a gun was wielded over him by a plain-clothes officer who had pursued him along a London artery in a high-speed chase on his way home from a night-shift at work.

At times, Mr Kubweza threads through side streets to avoid patrolled areas. When security was tightened after bomb blasts

in the City and Docklands areas of London, he was persistently stopped and searched at a string of checkpoints.

Black people are up to eight times more likely than white people to be stopped and searched, according to a recent analysis of Home Office data by Statewatch, an independent police monitor. The first detailed ethnic breakdown of police stops and searches across England and Wales showed over 100 stops and searches of black people per 1000 of the local black population in Cleveland, Dyfed Powys, Merseyside and the Met. There were less than 50 stops and searches of white people per 1,000 in the same areas.

A Home Office report published a few weeks ago shows that a disproportionate number of arrests of black people are dropped due to weak evidence. It explains: "The police sometimes view members of ethnic minority groups and black people in particular as 'problematic'."

Maurice McLeod, a 29-year-old black journalist, kept a meticulous record of his stop and search encounters. They totalled 31 during the first three months of 1995, usually on the same west London route. He was never arrested.

Police officers can carry out a stop and search only if they have reasonable grounds for suspicion. They are obliged by law to fill out an incident form and tell a suspect of their right to a copy of the record.

"There is no legal reason for the stop and search of young black men in a majority of these cases," says human rights lawyer Sadiq Khan, who has dealt with about 50

cases of police misconduct stemming from stops and searches. "I have no doubt that this constitutes harassment," Mr Khan estimates that up to 80 per cent of his clients are young black men, vulnerable to wrongful arrests.

"We've plainly said we are stopping too many young black men for insufficiently good reasons," says former Lambeth Chief Inspector and borough liaison officer Alan O'Gorman. "If we can demonstrate... that

'We have plainly said we are stopping too many young black men for insufficiently good reasons'

we're working on it, public confidence will be greater, and [so will] the degree to which we police by consent."

Two routes are open to aggrieved people seeking a challenge against a police officer for what they believe to be abuse of power. Formal complaints - investigated by officers from a separate force under the supervision of the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) - offer the prospect of an officer being disciplined or criminally prosecuted. Of the 228 complaints for breaches of stop and

search rules recorded by the PCA for the year until the end of last March, no officer was disciplined, 14 were "admonished".

It takes civil action for compensation against a police officer - usually a Chief Constable - to put stop and search records before a jury. Legal aid is available for the process, which can take as long as six years to complete. Court guidelines now limit damages to 50,000 pounds, awarded according to the severity of an abuse. An officer usually returns to work after a case is settled.

"What's the point of making a complaint? If I was lucky I'd get an insincere apology," says Mr Kubweza.

"Police officers freely interpret their code of conduct. I don't want a stop and search to depend on whether a particularly progressive officer is on duty," says Lee Jasper, who heads a black community group, the 1990 Trust. Making policy and practice match in this area is the job of a Home Office quango called the Specialist Support Unit, which has trained about 2,000 senior police officers in "equality objectives".

"Our training starts from the premise that all police officers might have stereotyped perceptions that influence their behaviour [during a] stop and search," says the support unit's director and chief trainer Jerome Mack.

Trainees memorise 10 commandments guaranteed to prevent conflict during a stop and search. In particular, they learn to avoid telling suspects to shut up or stand absolutely still, calling the suspect names, showing disrespect and assuming that

lack of eye contact indicates guilt.

Using role play and video to show reasonable grounds for a stop and search, the two-day cross-cultural course trains high-ranking officers how to identify suspicious behaviour in black communities. These officers are expected to pass on the skills.

But from next week, PCs on the beat in the south London borough of Lambeth will get a direct lesson from Mr Mack. They will soon be reciting the 10 commandments as part of a fresh bid by the local police community consultative group to crush "bad apples" in the station and stamp out bad attitude on the street.

Set in motion by Lord Scarman's recommendations following clashes in Brixton and Tottenham during the first half of the Eighties, and fuelled by concerns over zero tolerance tactics and the kind of policing for which the Notting Hill Carnival gained notoriety, the Lambeth consultative group has thrashed out its own peace plan.

The Community and Race Relations strategy puts local people on a committee to help steer key decisions about police recruitment, training and tackling institutionalised racism. It may become a model for other forces.

But not everyone is convinced. Mr Kubweza for one will need a bit more persuasion: "I grew up with the hassle. The longer it goes on, the more I just see the uniform. My only encounters have been negative. It's made me very anti-police. That's what experience has taught me. I can't see any way it's going to change."

Caution: police using imagination

PROTESTERS AT a recent peace demonstration outside the Faslane Defence Base in Scotland received a rude and painful shock when they were struck head-on by a carload of frustrated MoD officials.

But the real surprise came two minutes later when police arrested one dented protester for causing criminal damage to the car's bodywork.

If that incident seems bizarre, consider the case of Lawrence O'Dowd, an unemployed 18-year-old, who was arrested earlier this year for saying "Miaow" to a police dog. The charge: using threatening words and behaviour.

Since 1985, the Brighton based underground newsletter *SchNews* has collated a "crap arrests of the week" file containing hundreds of incidents. While the reports have a humorous side, they indicate that police sometimes make vexatious and frivolous arrests.

When in doubt, police make use of conditional charges involving suspicion. Three Brighton protesters who last year occupied virtually indestructible steel CCTV camera poles were arrested for "suspected criminal damage", while a Derry man, Liam Forbes, found himself under arrest for "behaviour likely to lead to a breach of the peace" after taking his coat off to reveal his team colours. All charges were thrown out by magistrates.

Arrests involving suspicion are particularly popular when dealing with demonstrators and activists who can then be held in custody for up to 24 hours, or barred from protest sites.

Take the case of the Newbury bypass protesters, who were pulled over by Thames Valley police while on their way to a demonstration. As they waited for some minutes on the roadside, one of the men unbuckled his seatbelt, and was promptly arrested - for not wearing a seatbelt.

One Sussex man, protesting outside the home of a Kent vet who signs live animal export certificates, was arrested for "causing alarm, distress and harassment" after he called a policeman by his first name. "George" then imposed bail conditions not to go within a 20-mile radius of Dover.

Later that month, during an Anti-Live Export action at Woodsfarm in Redditch, a woman was arrested for being in possession of a pair of nail-clippers. She was later released with the warning that if she took them on another action she would be charged with "going equipped".

A London Animal Rights' activist protesting outside a gun shop was arrested for possession of an offensive weapon - a bicycle lock. He was eventually released without charge.

Arrest can lead to more serious consequences. A man reliant on self-dialysis equipment was on his way to a demonstration at Hillgrove Farm, where cats are bred for vivisection. He was stopped by police, who then searched his car, discovered the medical kit, and arrested him on suspicion of using equipment to rescue the cats.

According to the *SchNews* report, the police claimed the boxes in his car were "cat boxes" and would be used to take liberated cats from the farm. The police wouldn't believe the boxes contained self-dialysis equipment which the man needs to use four times a day, even though "dialysis" was written all over them.

Before being taken to Oxford police station, the man was kept in a police van for two and a half hours. He was released 30 minutes before the deadline for his next dialysis, but it then took him another two and a half hours to get back to his car.

Two Christchurch men leaving a pub were asked by a passing policeman to reveal where they lived. When one replied "at home" the two were arrested and locked up for the night.

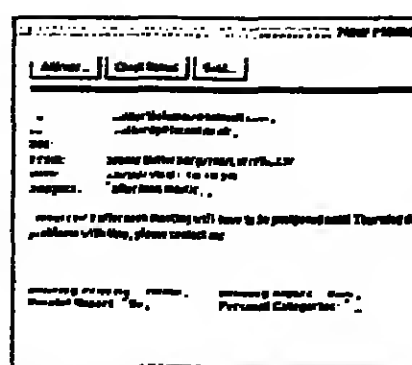
SIMON DAVIES

JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

12. E-MAIL BY GLENDA COOPER

POOR OLD George III. On 4 July 1776 he is said to have written in his diary: "Nothing of importance happened today." If only the Founding Fathers had had access to kgorge@palace.uk.

Mail bonding is one of life's greatest delights. Look around your office at all those dedicated workers tip-tapping away. The latest report to be filed? Not on your life. Something more deeply subversive is going on - affairs being conducted, reputations slaughtered, *Cornation Street* being dissected. And all those jokes about Clinton, Lewinsky and that cigar. We are constantly being told that we are working longer and harder than ever before, but don't believe a word



of it. It's just that everyone wants to know electronically who went home with whom the night before, across the world. And don't listen to those who

pull long faces and bemoan the death of the traditional letter. It's not e-mail that did it, it was the telephone. As soon as mothers clocked on that fifties and

tantrums on Boxing Day could be solved by ringing up Granny instead of chaining the little dears to the kitchen table with their thank you notes, the written missive was doomed.

But e-mail is actually reviving the art of letter writing. Somewhere deep within every human lurks the desire to receive a communication which cannot be read by anyone else. Letters can be steamed open. Faxes are seen by half the office. E-mails, however, can be opened silently, read, replied to and sent before even your closest neighbour has the merest sniff of what is going on.

In fact e-mail is the biggest boom in note and letter writing

since the birth of the postal service and the invention of the postcard in the 19th century (around a third of Americans and a quarter of Britons are said to have some sort of access to e-mail). And what you Luddites easily forget is that the golden age of letter writing was when you could send a letter to your lover in the morning and have a reply in the afternoon rather than waiting three days for a muddy, torn envelope pushed through your door.

It's true that, by using e-mail, we are unlikely to have vast collections of letters like those of the poet Pope (who incidentally asked for all his letters back before they were published so

that he could "improve" them). But then, in the world of modern communications, it's only those with their eye on posterity who are likely to send them anyway. Most people just wouldn't bother at all.

Actually there's something horrible about the thought of old Alexander finessing his letter ("Hummum maybe another rhyming couplet here before the page turn? Anyone know a rhyme for verisimilitude?"). The joy - and terror - of e-mails is that they are so impulsive, so of the minute with no capital letters and no proper grammar; that they reflect all too cruelly what people are thinking (from bill@whitehouse.com - monica.

sorry, it's over, gotta go and invade somewhere and hny flowers for Hillary before she beats me up, bill, ps i need my dress back).

This summer, historians were appalled to learn that Princess Margaret had destroyed hundreds of the Queen Mother's letters in a tidy-up at the palace. But I think that our formidable matriarch is cleverer than that. I'm sure she switched from snailmail years ago to be rude about her daughters-in-law, the Blair government and the huttler without her busybody daughter poking her nose in. If only her royal ancestor had had the same advantage. Then it could have all been so different, eh Bill?

JAVICO 1350

Towards a perfect monotony

Willie Doherty's political artwork has avoided both propaganda and emotional indulgence for an intense view of the deadlock in Northern Ireland. By Tom Lubbock

I used to know someone, a member of the Socialist Worker Party, whose big put-down for those she called "post-modernists" was to say that, for them, the revolution was something that happened in art galleries. She had a point. You do find people usually writing in art magazines – who seem to think that way. They fervently analyse, pro or contra, the political import of some artwork, without any practical reference to political life outside the gallery, without even noticing the omission. But then, what's the right way to think of the relation between what happens in the gallery and in the public world beyond?

Political art is liable to lose out every way. If it makes direct statements, it's called propaganda, and told that it's wasting its energy, or acting in bad faith, because the art audience is tiny and probably immune too. If it offers more oblique meditations, it's accused of indulgence, evasion and obscurity: what's wanted are clear declarations and commitments. And whatever it does, it's likely also to be judged by the most touchy standards, as if it really were going to make all the difference in the world. Political art often finds itself in a role which reverses that proverbially enjoyed by the press: minimum power, maximum responsibility.

And sometimes it knows this. At the Tate Gallery in Liverpool, Willie Doherty has a kind of retrospective, just opened and titled "Somewhere Else". Doherty is in his late-thirties and lives in Derry. His only subject, since the mid-1980s, has been the politics of Northern Ireland. His medium is photos with words, and videos with soundtracks. It's an art acutely – almost oppressively – conscious of its limitations and responsibilities. It never looks very hopeful either.

Here's an example, a video piece called *At the End of the Day*. In a small dark room, projected onto one wall, you see: view from

a car driving along a hilly country road at dusk – out of the gloom, in a dip, suddenly, a border road-block – unmanned, just a blank metal barrier across the road – car stops, waits, some dark birds cross the sky – sequence begins again, repeated over and over. And each time the short sequence restarts, a monotonous voice on the soundtrack says "the only way is forward" or "we must forget the past and look to the future" or "we're entering a new phase" or some such phrase from the lexicon of political breakthrough ("at the end of the day...").

The idea there, and the irony, is I suppose pretty direct (breakthrough hits road-block again and again), but it has a characteristic twist of uncertainty too. Talk of "a new phase" might come from the Northern Ireland Office. It might equally refer to the armed struggle. Something the work often stresses is how the language duplicates – not only the language of either side, but also the language of peace and war.

Take another, largely audio, piece, *They're All the Same*. Here you see a still slide projection of a young man's face, accompanied by an again very monotonous voice-over, which delivers three sorts of statements alternately: 1. I am a crazy killer, for example "I am ruthless and cruel". 2. I am a noble struggler ("I am proud and dedicated"). 3. lyrical description of landscape ("The soft Atlantic rain which seems to cover the whole country adds depth and subtlety to its colour"). Of course, the last element is pretty important, because otherwise the piece would just say that one person's terrorist is another's freedom fighter. The nature sentiment complicates things. It could well be shared by both sides. It could be the common ground that both are fighting for and over. Or it could come from a tourist board, trying to put the Troubles out of the visitor's mind.

A lot of things are noticeable by their ab-



'Bullet Holes': violent action is never represented in Doherty's work, only its results, in high finish

James Austin

sence. No violent action is represented, only its results, in high finish, close-up, colour photos of a car's bullet-holed bodywork, or blown-out french windows, or a burnt out van left by the roadside. These things are taken out of context; specifically taken out of the context of dramatic reportage, presented absolutely flat. Indeed there's very little human incident at all in Doherty's work – no images of paramilitaries, or security forces, or parades, raids, stand-offs, funerals, or any of the well known "sights" (with their well known emotional incitements). You get a lot of unpeopled views of town and country, where the human presence is only in the viewpoint implied – as in photos titled *At the Border* – walking towards a Military Checkpoint to a leafy lane in perfect perspective with nothing else visible!

And if you wonder where Doherty stands himself, it seems to be a matter of negatives. He observes a studied neutrality as between loyalist and nationalist causes. He is deeply sceptical of all the standard languages: mediatic, political, security or terrorist. He insists on everybody's blank incomprehension of everybody else. He's scrupulously down-beat. As for the emotional charge of the work, I'd almost call it an intense boringness. Obviously that sounds rude, but I take this effect to be deliberate, and to involve various motives: careful avoidance of anything flashy or sensational in the presentation; stern discouraging of all stock responses; creating a sense of depressed inurement,

of the wearing everyday anxiety of checkpoints, barriers, surveillance, outrages; and a sense of the rigid entrenchment of all positions. And it is a real intensity.

Whether Doherty's work has, in addition, a margin of quite gratuitous boringness, I'm not sure. But a more important issue is its apparently inflexible pessimism. And an obvious point, of course, is: so what about now? The peace process and the Good Friday agreement? How does Doherty deal with that? Well there's only one piece from 1998, a complex video installation, *Somewhere Else*, which would need about 500 words to describe – but suffice to say that no breakthrough seems to be registered here either. Nor would you really expect that from an art that's been till then so spectacularly unmoved by hopes of any sort.

Least of all the hope that it might make much difference to anything. Indeed, one can think that Doherty's work holds its place within the art gallery just too securely. For isn't its take on its subject exactly the artistic position? Our art loves deadlocks, hates breakthroughs. (What a let down if, on the fiftieth repeat the road-block was gone and the car kept going...) At any rate, making the Troubles so strongly into art, Doherty makes you aware how very remote the contemporary artistic virtues – a laconic irony, contradictions held in resonant stasis, brooding menace – are from those of the negotiating table.

Willie Doherty – *Somewhere Else*: Tate Gallery Liverpool, Albert Dock, Liverpool, until 4 October; admission £3, cones £1.50

A fine brush with violence

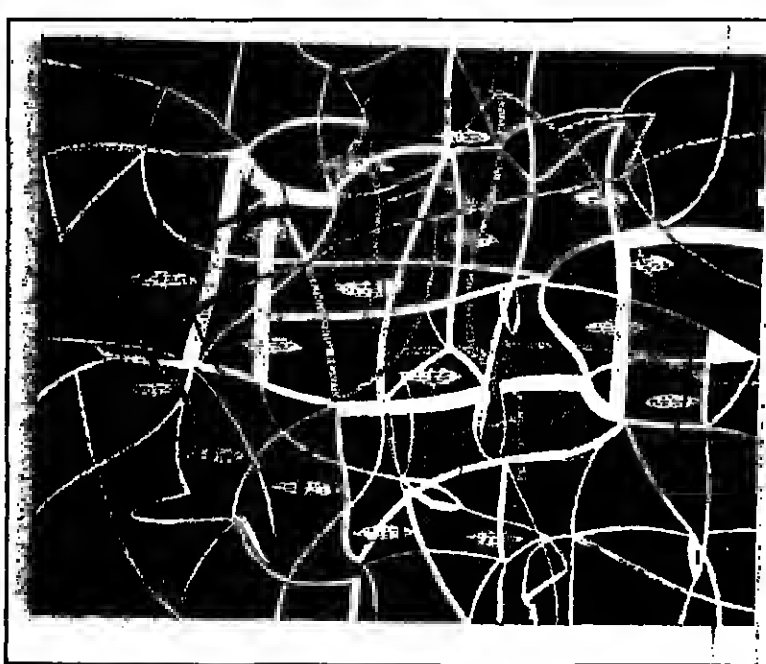
Photographic realism, linear abstraction – Maurice Cockrill has painted in many styles but all his work captures the implicit turmoil of nature. By David Cohen

MAURICE COCKRILL'S subject is the turbulence of nature and the violence brought on by change, whether growth or destruction is winning through. The environment and the elements seethe with both vitality and danger; and as if to reflect this dichotomy, Cockrill's painterly treatment oscillates between elegance and awkwardness.

This restless permeates not just individual images but the shape of Cockrill's painting output. Works from the last 10 years are the subject of a fulsome and energetic retrospective at the Royal West of England Academy in Bristol. Even within this timespan, which represents less than half of his career, there is an extraordinary diversity of temper and style. Richly troubled landscapes in organic hues at one end of the show jar with hermetically abstract linear configurations in unearthly colours at the other. The same relentless force of nature which spawns life and terminates it seems to keep Cockrill on the move, preventing him from settling down comfortably into his own genre or style.

While this makes for an exciting body of work, it hasn't helped Cockrill's reputation. Despite wonderful handling of materials, an unquestionable painterly authority, the admiration of fellow artists (Paula Rego and John Hoyland among them) and the confidence of dealers and collectors, the lack of a trademark idiom has deprived him of success. Part of the problem is that he only arrived on the London scene in the early 1980s, starting his career afresh. Twenty years before that were spent in Liverpool, where he was well-known as a realist, installing huge billboard-like portraits of casual passers-by in Lime Street Station (a project funded by the Arts Council) and painting urban landscapes with deadpan photographic precision.

Disaffection with that led to a decisive break. First there were violently choppy neo-Expressionist figure paintings inspired by visits to the National Gallery, often dealing with mythological subjects about the battle between the sexes (they were exhibited in the Düsseldorf Kunstmuseum in 1985). These gave way to landscapes charged with a similar sense of disturbance and edginess. A series titled *Song of the Earth* justified the allusion to Mahler because, like his music, a gorgeous lyricism



'Magnus 4 - Red Rain' (1998)

learned to live with strange abrasions and unsettling dissonances.

Cockrill is probably best known for such landscapes. At the time he was represented by the Bernard Jacobson Gallery which was at the commercial forefront of the 1980s revival of interest in the British romantic tradition, trading in such figures as Bomberg, Lanyon and Hitchens.

Cockrill's work related to these forebears, along with Nash and Sutherland, and fitted the ethos of the critic Peter Fuller who argued, in Ruskinian terms, for a modern landscape painting embodying spiritual yearnings. Cockrill's landscapes take an unsentimental view of nature; his landscape, like that of his own childhood to North Wales, is post-industrial, scarred and brooding. His painting is both tempestuous in its rough handling, and infused with hope in its richness and affirmative colour. For those after "redemption through form" (Fuller's catchphrase), Cockrill looked positively messianic.

This period was a highpoint for Cockrill. His works sold well, and Margaret Drabble wrote a monograph about him. And yet, perhaps precisely because of

his association with Romanticism, he must have been perceived in some quarters as suspect – conservative if not anti-Modernist. The Tate has still to buy its first Cockrill and the Arts Council hasn't supported him since he left Liverpool. His former city, however, has not forgotten him.

In 1995, he was the subject of a full-scale retrospective at the Walker, which owns his tremendously ambitious and involving series of elliptical canvases from 1980, the *Seasons*. Within these suggestively egg-shaped canvases, a hustle of forms – pods, seeds, flaming hearts, loops, leaves, crystalline cellular structures – seem on the brink of becoming harbingers of symbolic meaning but jealously guard their potency.

These four pieces dominate the first gallery of the West of England Academy as once again the regions take up the cudgels on Cockrill's behalf. Bristol's RWA, an architectural marvel with its wonderful 19th century galleries, has a lively and courageous exhibition policy which deserves national recognition.

An artist who struck such a rich vein in his *Seasons* would have been justified in sticking with it, exploring subtle variations

and turning the private iconography and lexicon of marks and gestures into his trademark style. But Cockrill moved on, questioning the voluptuousness of his own facility in extreme form by adopting wooden MDF doors as his support and – a graphic acknowledgement of implicit violence – "drawing" over the surface of the panel with an axe. Disappointingly, these *Entrances* of 1991 are excluded from the Bristol show. Instead, the curator, Ann Elliott (formerly of the British Council and Sculpture at Goodwood) concentrated on his most recent work, which has taken a turn towards lyrical abstraction.

But this is not such a sudden jump, as the show demonstrates. Cockrill is not so much stylistically promiscuous as dialectical: once he has followed one course, he always counteracts with a kind of opposition, although one that grows out of an unexpected aspect of his previous work, all of which informs, at some level, the synthesis which constantly beckons. Out of *Entrances* came the series *Wheat*, which gradually lost its symbolic literalness in a series called *Generation*. In these, an amorphous shape, within which nestle organic growths and landscape vistas, floats against a bright, almost garish monochrome ground.

It was here that a new kind of mark introduced itself. Detached from the rest of the composition, lasso or anchor-like forms provide some kind of commentary on the rest of the scene. As marks they are elegant, lyrical and spontaneous. This pulled up short viewers who thought they were used to the sumptuous Expressionism of his 1980s landscapes. In his latest series, *Elements*, dense webs of different coloured line evoke wateriness or fire. Seen on their own they look at first like 1950s salon abstraction, or some ironic, retro comment about such material, but in relation to Cockrill's private language and development they are a challenging dialectical statement. It's tantalising to imagine what's next.

Maurice Cockrill is at the Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, to 19 September. The exhibition will be shown in reduced form at Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, from 25 September to 17 October.

INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO BUYING AFFORDABLE CONTEMPORARY ART

PURE WHITE and delicately modelled, this porcelain cast of an infant's dress by Tiziana Bendall-Brunello seems to contain the breath of life. It speaks of the fragility of childhood and the fleetness of time.

The Italian-born artist has already earned a reputation for her glass bowls in which gold, silver and copper is embedded, and for her glass architectural panels. But it is her casts of socks, shoes – and now little dresses – that she feels impelled to make between commissions, that have caught the eye of exhibition curators.

Janice Blackburn, the independent curator, has put her porcelain dress in her current "Spirit of the Age" exhibition at the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham, and her pair of lead-crystal stiletto-heeled shoes were in this summer's "Absolute Cobblers" exhibition at the Barbican. Next month, the Hayward Gallery will show her ceramic and glass triptych, "Fragments", in its show, "Addressing the Century: 100 Years of Art and Fashion", which explores the radical visual innovations of key figures in art and fashion.

Bendall-Brunello, 39, dipped the 20in high cotton dress repeatedly in porcelain slip until it literally acquired body. After each dip, she accentuated the detail of the frills using a wooden modelling tool. "These dresses are so close to being human; they really talk to you," she says. So it is a pity that about four out of five crumble or distort into macabre shapes during firing at 1280C. She discards them. The survivors – only four so far – emerge with the fabric incinerated without trace and having acquired a subtle movement of their own. "It's not like carving the drape of a stone statue," she says. "You have to stand back and let the firing process take its own course". The latest, to which she has become most



Bendall-Brunello's porcelain dress James Austin

attached, has braced its tiny shoulders and puffed out its chest.

One of her inspirations is the Sixties Italian *arte povera* artist Giuseppe Penone, especially his ceramic life-size human figure, "Breath", cast in negative so that the empty cavity seems to materialise. Reaction to the little porcelain dress is mixed. One viewer, overheard by Bendall-Brunello, called it "The epitome of poetry". Another said: "Oh, god, it's difficult to look at, it's so ghostly". To me, it looks like one of those irresistibly nostalgic 18th century children's garments that turn up in trunks in the attics of the gentry – the last remnant of a life, perhaps snuffed out before its time, now resurrected.

Her pair of slip-cast socks are more homely. They look as if they have just been cast off – crumpled, but still containing the shape of feet.

Bendall-Brunello's degree course at Camberwell College of Arts was in fine art and ceramics. Hence her daring use of kiln technology. One of her works is a little dress

sandwiched between two sheets of glass and fired. The dress has disappeared, but its impression in the glass remains, down to the last fibre. She has applied a screen-print of the dress, as it was, to one side of the glass. "I like using glass," she says. "It's like freezing, preserving something. The glass allows you in, but at the same time keeps you at a distance."

Each of the three tile-like shapes of her "Fragments" contains a porcelain cast of a section of a dress embedded in greenish glass. "I wanted to deconstruct something familiar," she says, "and then put it back together in a different way. It was certainly more involving than previous pieces."

"My work appears to be self-generating. I feel as if I'm following leads, picking up threads."

Prices: £450 – £2,200. Examples of her work will be in Sotheby's annual selling exhibition of contemporary decorative art in February.

Tiziana Bendall-Brunello (01223-411374)

09/01/2015

I'll be in Bollywood afore ye

It may seem extravagant to bring an Indian film crew all the way to Paisley to film a six-minute sequence, but Bombay's film industry can easily afford it. And to the audience, Scotland is the ultimate exotic foreign location. By Richard Mowe

AGAINST A backdrop of heather, lochs, mountains and scudding clouds, a film crew watch an Indian couple apparently rehearsing a traditional dance. Suddenly the sound of a sitar music blasts from a couple of strategically placed speakers, causing any curious wildlife to drive for cover. As cameras whirr, the two actors - he in skin-tight jeans and leather jacket, she in miniskirt and modestly revealing blouse - embark on their paces with studied intensity and grand gestures.

Cut! The director, Karan Johar, rushes forward to declare himself well pleased with his protagonists' efforts. The crew, all warmly wrapped against the rigours of a Scottish summer, pack up, stow gear into assorted buses and vans then head off into a gathering dusk and their base in Glasgow, some four hours' drive away. The next day they can look forward to another dawn rise, and another scenic location along hazardous single-track roads from Loch Lomond to Glencoe.

"Bollywood", the term coined for India's film industry centered on Bombay, has come to Scotland to film part of a £1.5m blockbuster.

The two actors, Shah Rukh Khan and his leading lady Kajol, possess a level of stardom to eclipse the likes of Tom Cruise and Winona Ryder. While most of the crew of 35 have been accommodated, with their own chef, in a university hall of residence, Khan and Kajol bask in the luxury of a hotel.

In the film, *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, (Something Happened in My Heart) they play star-crossed lovers who dream of coming to Scotland. The six-minute musical sequence takes place in their imaginations.

Why Scotland? "Because to Indian eyes it's an exotic place - and we chose places for their scenic beauty and sense of history," says Yash Johar, the film's producer (and Karan Johar's father). "This is a *Romeo and Juliet* story. She comes from an old-fashioned background; he follows her home, and eventually wins her family's heart."



In a remote Scottish valley, Karan Johar's film crew settle down to film a dream sequence with Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol (left) dancing in the heather *Mowe*

Kohar's Bombay colleagues thought him "crazy" to go all the way to Scotland with a huge crew for this short sequence. "But this part has to be more beautiful than anything else in the film, and you cannot manufacture that in a studio," he says. The producer helps to fund his film-making activities through an export business. "We make more films than any other country in the world, including the States - around 700 a year. And the quality is improving. The Americans would think nothing of coming to Scotland for such a short shoot, so why shouldn't we?" He was lucky to get Khan. At home, the star would be mobbed everywhere. He managed to survive

incognito in Scotland until the last day, when the news broke among the Asian community. The local paper headline was: "Exclusive - Indian movie megastar in Paisley." As a result a handful of girls waited patiently at the hotel to catch a glimpse of their idol. "We can't believe he's here in Scotland. I've seen every film he's ever made," said one. "We know everything there is to know about him; unfortunately he's married, and has a child, but we still like him. He can be the hero or the bad guy, and he's also very funny. When he's in a serious role he makes me great [cry]."

If Khan is a Cruise clone who has made 26 films in the last four years,

then Kohar must be a close copy of Steven Spielberg. He worked as a production executive with several of the big studios in Bombay before opting to set up independently. "What I make from my business activities, I plough into my films. It is a passion. Film-making all over the world is a gamble; just like going to the racetrack and seeing who the trainer is, and the rider, and assessing the pedigree and the form. My son always wanted to work in the cinema. He was an assistant on a film, *People with Heart*. Will Take the Bride Away, written by a friend, which was a huge hit. Khan was also starring in it, and he suggested my son should direct this film."

Kohar detects a return to a taste for romance among Indian audiences, every day 15 million go to the cinema, paying 40 rupees (or 75p). "For the last four or five years we followed the pattern for big budget action movies from the West. Now love is back. Our audiences are poor and we have to provide what they want. Rich Indians have tennis, golf and racing, but the ordinary person only has cinema. When they buy a ticket, they want to spend three hours at least in front of the screen. I know that if I made a film of 90 minutes it would be a flop."

"They want songs, comedy, tragedy and romance; they would never accept boy meets girl and a

kiss right away. You have to take time to establish a relationship."

"Yes, now lovers can kiss on screen, providing it is not vulgar. But the censor allows only a couple of kisses per film."

Most of the films are so culturally specific that they baffle foreign audiences. One prevalent play is to remake Hollywood hits - there have been three versions of *Mrs Doubtfire* and as many of *Sleeping with the Enemy* and *Indecent Proposal*. Male stars are usually strong of jaw and clear of eye; females are pallid and compliant.

Working practices are relaxed. Kevin Cowie, Scottish Screen's location manager, observed the shoot

from close quarters. "There's a very ad hoc attitude to shooting. Normally you would have everything prepared down to the last detail. With them, you'd be driving along the shores of a loch, and they would say: 'That looks nice, let's stop here.' At one point they blocked a single-track road, and we had to come back to move everything for a forestry lorry." Cowie was not amused. "They thought they could shoot anywhere without permission, including the ruins of St Andrew's Cathedral where they let off explosives. We didn't even know they were coming until after the event."

"They think nothing of working a 12- or even 14-hour day. At Fort William one day their coach broke down, and they hired taxis to take them to the location." Local businesses had no complaints: the Indians parted with £40,000 during their stay, hiring a Scottish location manager, lighting and special effects crew who, bizarrely, had to manufacture a rainstorm to order.

Scotland has begun to acquire a reputation in Bollywood. Last year the director Dev Anand came to the Highlands to make *Desire*, helped by a Dundee restaurateur, Tony Hussain, who says: "Usually Indian film-makers think of Switzerland but Scotland has more to offer. I think of myself as a promoter. I was born here, but I want to give something back."

Bollywood's escape to Scotland will hit screens on 14 October, which has been deemed the equivalent of America's Independence Day prime slot for launching a movie. In addition to the 600 prints at home, almost 100 copies will be shown at the same time throughout the world in cities including London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Bristol and Leicester.

On that day Johar can expect queues round the block as fans in Delhi and Bombay jostle for admittance to the first show. That's a Bollywood tradition the moguls of LA would willingly trade.

A dream between the twin towers

Decadent Western music is coming to Muslim Malaysia. But who really benefits? By Michael Church

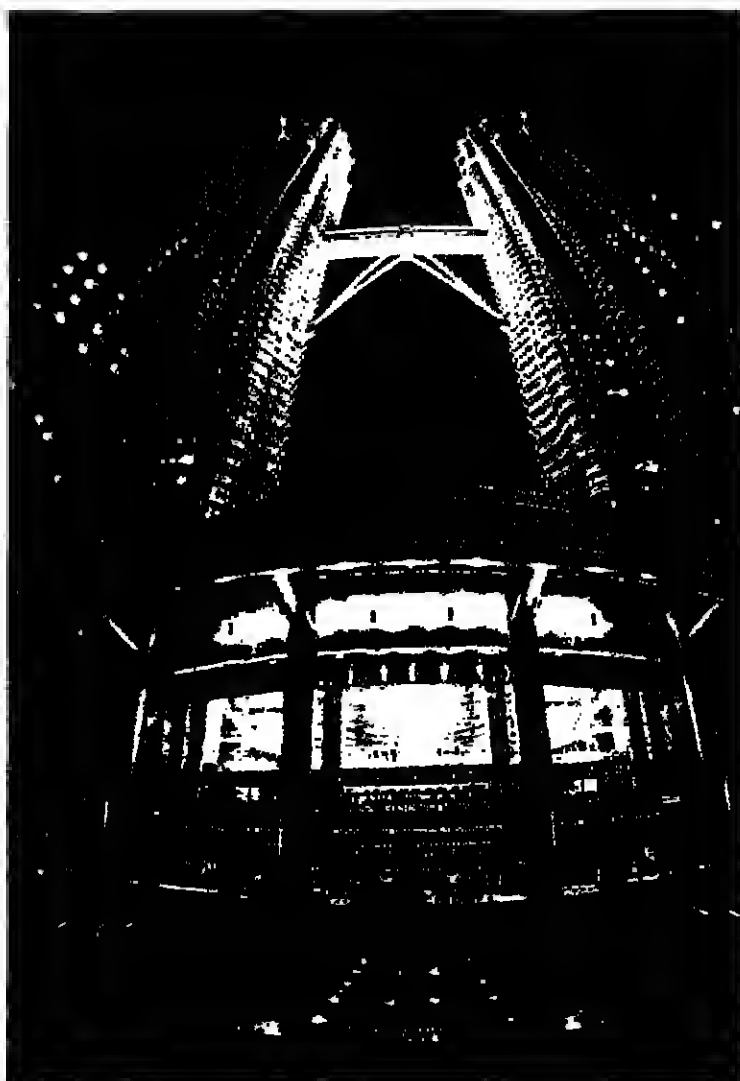
HOSTING THE Commonwealth Games was always going to be a moment of truth for Kuala Lumpur, and the timing now is cruel. A collapsing currency has littered the Malaysian capital with abandoned projects - shuttered shops, half-built ghost-towns, concrete pillars supporting an invisible monorail - but amazingly, the key things are bang on target. The stadium is up-and-running, and something remarkable has appeared at the base of the Petronas Twin Towers - the world's tallest building - like a silver football trapped between the feet of a giant.

A symphony hall is a must for any Far Eastern country wishing to Westernise itself, but this one - with its brand-new orchestra - reflects an extraordinary melding of cultures, where British musicians have been the catalyst. For Muslim Malaysia has traditionally viewed Western music as decadent: the classical torch has been carried by the ethnic-Chinese business class, who routinely put their offspring through British piano grades. And in Malaysia the cultured Chinese are resented by poorer Malays as the Jews were in turn-of-the-century Vienna. This inferiority-complex is what Prime Minister Mahathir terms "the Malay dilemma", and resolving that dilemma through job-quotas has long been the policy of the government.

But orchestras are not assembly-lines, and violinists aren't created overnight. When the state-owned Petronas oil company decreed a resident orchestra for their new concert hall, they asked the London branch of IMG Artists to set it up. The resulting band is preponderantly American, British, and Hungarian, with just four Malaysians who are all - surprise, surprise! - ethnic Chinese, including a young harpist found studying in Manchester. Is this yet another snub for the Malays?

No, because Petronas chairman Tan Sri Azizan is playing a long and clever game. On hearing that a Malaysian woman conductor called Chean Si Ooi was working in Germany, he sent IMG to check her out. It emerged that she had long been trying to found a Malaysian symphony orchestra and she is now resident conductor in Kuala Lumpur. Meanwhile, Tan Sri appointed as his music director the Dutch conductor, Kees Bakels, who is determined, like Chean Si, to nurture any local composing talent that he comes across. "Even if the quality isn't great, I'd rather do something Malaysian than import high-grade, ready-made stuff from China or Japan."

As general manager - the lynchpin of any orchestra - Tan Sri chose John



The new symphony hall at the foot of the Twin Towers *IMG*

Duffy, a former LSO boss whose glittered reputation drew a flood of applications from players in Britain and America. Indeed, I have never encountered a more contented bunch than the players I meet here, and not just because pay and conditions are so good. "Creating this orchestra has been a dream," says Duffy. "Starting off with no prior ill-feeling between players and management, we've been able to design a contract which is right for the local situation." The unique thing about this contract is that it stipulates that every player should also teach, which brings us to Tan Sri's next goal: a full-scale conservatoire in Kuala Lumpur, from which his orchestra will eventually be staffed.

As it happens, there already is a conservatoire of sorts, in a scatter of hungalows 10 miles outside town. Just two years old, this is part of the

rapidly-expanding Putra Malaysia, and it only exists because its vice-chancellor asked the Birmingham-trained Malaysian percussionist Mimi Ang to create a campus orchestra. To have an orchestra, she replied, you first need a music department, so her pretest she got one. The full orchestra has to rehearse on the lawn, which can be problematic in the rainy season, and the paper-thin walls of the bungalows let all the practitioners hear each other, which makes for a merry din. But these students work with such intensity that nobody cares about privacy, and miracles do happen.

The miracle I encounter goes by the name of Loo Fung Chiat, a shy 21-year-old who delivers Chopin with thunder and lightning, and who tells me her goal is a scholarship to London. I predict she'll get one with ease, but that's

not the prime purpose of this institution. "Until now," says Mimi Ang, "music in Malaysia has been the province of the rich. Hopefully this department, which is for poor students like Fung Chiat, will change things a little."

Another of Ang's students is a father-of-three called Mizan, who bikes 100 miles each day for the privilege of learning the tuba. And as a Muslim he is prepared to answer a question which his fellow-students are too embarrassed even to discuss. Why is it that local Islamists condemn Western music? "It's a question of instruments," he says. "Drums, for example, don't deflect us from thinking about life after death. Even the Prophet approved of music with rhythm, which spurred people to get

'Stringed instruments are morally dangerous - so beautiful they make us forget our higher purpose'

on with their lives. But strings are so beautiful that they make us forget about our higher purpose. That makes them morally dangerous."

Back at the Malaysian Philharmonic, people feel no less hedged about by religion. Tan Sri tells me of the problem he has had with "a small group who would like to use religious differences for political ends". Controversy focused on the concert hall's organ - seen by some as a Christian instrument. He has had it covered in Malaysian designs, and now it looks properly oriental. Meanwhile, any work with a text must be submitted for government approval before it's performed: grand opera, with its penchant for illicit liaisons, wouldn't stand a chance.

More seriously, anything on which a Zionist construction might be put is out of the question. *Elzoh* would be banned on textual grounds, not because its composer, Mendelssohn was a Jew. But in Malaysia, which has no diplomatic relations with Israel, Jewishness in performers is another hazard. Chean Si recalls the day a youth orchestra she was bringing was nearly stopped at the border because one girl was Israeli: they only got through thanks to intercession by Malaysia's First Lady, who happened to be one of their patrons. And then there are the Jewish performers who

refuse to come: Kees Bakels speaks with contempt of the virtuosi - no names, but we can guess - who won't play in Malaysia, but gladly do so in Muslim Turkey. Never mind, the indefatigable Yehudi Menuhin has booked to play in KL next year. Malaysians may observe prayers five times every Friday - the Petronas towers are equipped with mini-mosques for office-workers - but this is still one of the most moderate Muslim countries in the world.

Sean Connery may be about to shoot a film in the Petronas Twin Towers, but the young Malaysian intelligentsia have their own reasons for ambivalence towards their new imperial toy, particularly in a time of ferocious recession. "It's like Scarlett O'Hara buying a new dress while civil war is raging," says lawyer Sheena Gurubakshi, who goes on to warn the expat players to fine-tune their contracts. "We in Malaysia are good at wooing foreigners to work for us, and then exploiting them once they're here." Eddin Khoo, poet and music promoter, sees the orchestra as a calculated political statement. "Over the last 10 years our government has tried to remake Malaysia as a Western capitalist society, and to deny its multi-racial, multi-religious nature. The orchestra is another evasion of these truths. While millions are poured into an imported musical culture, our own music is dying." Both these commentators want to see the Malaysian Philharmonic incorporate local instruments, and local musical forms. Since they have potential allies in Bakels and Chean Si, this reasonable wish may come true.

But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Last week, after a ceremonial drum-roll by the Prime Minister, the new hall was christened. It's quite small and very pretty, reminiscent of Birmingham's Symphony Hall; its acoustics aren't right yet, but that's normal. And the orchestra was very decent for a first outing: Strauss, Rachmaninov and Ravel, plus two pieces of entirely forgettable tokenism. There being no world-class Malaysian violin prodigy, 12-year-old Hui Lee was imported from Korea to dazzle us, and dazzle she did; on the other hand, the "Malaysian Overture" by an indigenous young composer was a bit of a hoot (Rimsky-Korsakov not so much pastiche as lifted in chunks).

This whole ambitious exercise may be an artificial transplant carried out by an act of political will but, put in the wider Asian context, it prompts an arresting thought. As Western symphonic tradition runs out of steam, a new one may now be rising in the East.

Back to barracks

THEATRE

BILLOXI BLUES
NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE
LONDON

ONE OF THE biggest problems for the National Youth Theatre is finding material for its young casts, aged 16 to 21. There are numerous plays packed with meaty roles, but while the experience of working on characters way beyond your playing age is essential, putting actors too young for their roles on stage in front of a paying audience is a difficult matter.

Endless young writers have been inspired to "write about what you know about", churning out versions of what Joyce called *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. However, few playwrights have taken the lead quite as literally as Neil Simon. After streams of smart, urban comedies he turned the clock back 40 years to write three autobiographical plays about his early years: *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues* and *Broadway Bound*. With a cast almost entirely made up of young men undergoing basic military training, the second in his "Look Back Without Anger" trilogy is thus an entirely apt choice. Simon did his training in Denver, Colorado in 1945 but in *Biloxi Blues* he switched location to Mississippi. Not only out of his beloved Manhattan, we are also in new dramatic territory as, ironically, he almost abandons the machine-gun rattle of his two-tier formula: the automatic riotous of set-up and punch line. But we're still in his trademark chocolate box, where even the hardest things have a sweet, soft centre. His heart-on-sleeve *alter ego*, Eugene, is a nice Jewish boy who dreams of

becoming a writer. He's a gaffe-prone fish out of water. Well-scrubbed David Nicolle has a naive, engaging warmth as he tells the story of 10 back-breaking Army weeks. He may not quite come across as *echt* Jewish (which may be a decision by the director, Ed Wilson) but the accent is vintage Woody Allen and he even has a gleaming, perfect-teeth, all-American smile. Thrown into Simon's carefully assembled bunch of types - the redneck (Sam Spruell), the "Polack" (Josh Cole) etc - Eugene tells us of their often comic exploits as they struggle to come to terms with enforced cohabitation, war, and strict obedience. Jack Pierce cuts an enormously impressive figure as the swaggering disciplinary sergeant, his powerful voice commanding attention from the audience, let alone his raw recruits. Everyone seizes their opportunities, but the real stand-out is Matt Hickey as the nerdy Epstein. He may bear an uncanny resemblance to Radar from *M*A*S*H* but he has a relaxed presence and a quiet confidence which act as a still centre at the emotional high points. Let out on a pass, Eugene falls in love with Daisy - a nicely innocent and gently understated Claire Parsons - but it's really an all-boys show. The women get their turn in Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* and the season climaxes with a grand-scale *Oedipus Rex* at the Bloomsbury Theatre. At the very least, casting directors scouting for fresh talent should look no further.

DAVID BENEDICT

JAYICO 150

What a fine mess they got us in

Stan and Ollie have become victims of their own slapstick clichés. Now, 70 years after their first film, a new generation of funny men is acknowledging the original genius of Laurel and Hardy. By James Rampton

ONE CRITIC famously summed up the oeuvre of Laurel and Hardy with the succinct phrase: "They hit each other and fall over a lot." It is true that some people – particularly those from younger generations not steeped in slapstick – think, "oh no, here come Laurel and Hardy, I'd better duck to avoid the low-flying custard-pies." But even a cursory glance at their work reveals how unfair that assessment is.

The modern-day comedian Stewart Lee, himself part of a double act with Richard Herring, believes that the howler-hatted duo should not be found guilty by association with their pre-war comedy peers. "When you were a kid and they used to put on old films in the morning, even at the age of five you realised that Charlie Chaplin didn't translate to the modern world and that Abbott and Costello, even when they were meeting Frankenstein, were the 'black and white' equivalent of Little and Large. Laurel and Hardy have been unfairly bracketed with all that."

Well, you can judge the comic double act for yourselves this week. To mark the 70th anniversary of *Should Married Men Go Home?* (1928), the first official Laurel and Hardy film, a selection of their best work is being released in cinemas and on video.

But just what made Stan and Ollie different from the cruder, knockabout humour of many of their contemporaries? For Al Murray, three-time Perrier nominee and another contemporary comic admirer, it is the pair's universality that distinguishes them. "Although they may appear slow compared with the high-speed, slam-dunk comedy we're used to now, they have it all. Their comedy operates on the principle that everyone may not have been to America or even worn a bowler hat, but everyone has met an idiot so you can identify with them pretty easily."

It is this Everyman quality that still appeals to Lois Laurel, Stan's 72-year-old daughter. "They're everyday people in everyday situations. We can laugh at the jams they get into – 'another fine mess' – because they could happen to anybody." Glenn Mitchell, who, as author of *The Laurel and Hardy Encyclopedia*, knows more about their work than is strictly necessary, recalls that "Jack Benny once said Laurel and Hardy won't date because they don't rely on jokes per se, but on recognisable human situations that never alter."

Stewart Lee concurs: "Laurel and Hardy are completely timeless. It doesn't matter that their films are old. They're about power struggles in relationships, and everyone can relate to that because everyone has power struggles in relationships. Laurel and Hardy will never not be funny because people



Their comedy operates on the principle that everyone has met an idiot so you can identify with them pretty easily

will always be bickering with their partners or friends or colleagues."

At the same time, Laurel and Hardy have a deep and touching fondness for each other which never descends into the rank sentimentality of which Chaplin is so often accused. "However frustrated they may become, they know they need each other," says Mitchell. "In *Below Zero* (1930), they're being roughed up in this café and Ollie is thrown out on the street. When he

realises Stan's not there, he is visibly distressed. He calls out for him and rushes back to bang on the door of the café. It turns out that Stan is in the rain barrel. But for a brief moment we see a very concerned Ollie prepared to risk life and limb to save his friend."

"It's very easy to dismiss them as knockabout comedians, but there's more to them than that. They have such grace and they're such gentlemen – it's not basic

clowning where fingers are poked in eyes. Despite occasional squabbles, they have compassion for each other and for other people, unless provoked beyond endurance. They have humanity to spare."

Lee also praises their spirit: "They're like Morecambe and Wise, in that Eric is allowed to pick on Ernie, but when other people try to do it, he defends him. Laurel and Hardy present a united front against outsiders. Also, they suffer in

such a dignified way. When things fall on their heads, they don't really get annoyed. Stan will just rub his head and wait for the next thing to land on his head. I like that thing of just accepting your doom."

These eulogies are all very well, but what relevance do Laurel and Hardy have to Nineies' humour? Aren't they just sepia-tinted curios fit only for intensive study by film and comedy anoraks? Not if modern practitioners are to be believed.

Morecambe and Wise, John Cleese, Stephen Fry, Steve Martin, French and Saunders, Reeves and Mortimer and Steve Coogan are among those who acknowledge the pair's influence. Lee Evans is another fan, a maniacally physical comedian who would seem to be a direct descendant: "I think that the comics of today can't help but be influenced by Laurel and Hardy," he says. "You watch their stuff, and you just think 'Wow! Comedy owes those boys a lot.'"

According to Mark Little, another stand-up who revels in physicality, "it was work by those guys that inspired me. They didn't mind throwing themselves about a bit, and showing real courage in their comedy. They're like your mates, y'know?"

Further than that, a direct lineage can be traced from Laurel and Hardy down to specific modern-day comedy characters. Tony Robinson, for instance, did not have to look far for inspiration when creating the figure of Baldrick in *Blackadder*. "I absolutely admit that Stan Laurel, for one, was a great influence when I was developing my character Baldrick wouldn't have been half the man he was if it hadn't been for Laurel and Hardy. Not that he was much of a man anyway."

Similarly, Ardal O'Hanlon admits a debt to Laurel and Hardy in the genesis of his Father Ted character in *Father Ted*. "When you look at some of the stuff we did, you can almost see Stan and Ollie in that situation. Like when Dougal and Ted tried to carry that piano up the stairs and it... oh, no, that was Stan and Ollie in *Music Box*. Well, you can see how easy it is to confuse *Father Ted* with *Laurel and Hardy*."

Ah, yes, *The Music Box* (1933) – so many comedians' all-time favourite. I'll let Murray take up the story. "Stan and Ollie have to get this piano up an impossibly long flight of stairs, and much hilarity ensues. The moment that sums them up as a pair of know-nothing geniuses is when they have finally got it up the stairs and the postman says: 'Oh, you know you could have put it on your cart and brought it round the back on the road.' Stan and Ollie look at each other, they look at the piano, they look at the postman, and all this takes an eternity. Then they nod to one another and start to heave the piano back down the stairs to put it on the cart. Perfection." And quite a bit funnier than two men hitting each other and falling over a lot.

Sons of the Desert (1934), *Helpmates* (1932), *The Music Box* (1933) and *Way Out West* (1937) are released in cinemas nationwide on 4 September. Ten of Laurel and Hardy's best films are released on video on 7 September.

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UNACCOMPANIED CHORUSES OP. 74
NO. 1, 109 AND 110**
MDR CHOIR, LEIPZIG; LEIPZIG GEWANDHAUS
ORCHESTRA/HERBERT BLUMSTEDT
(DECCA 455 510-2, RECORDED 1996)

HERBERT BLUMSTEDT unfolds the drama of Brahms' Fourth Symphony like a sage relating a meaningful narrative. The opening is quiet – as marked – but with an underlying mobility that keeps the larger plan on permanent view. Blumstedt moulds the little surges and swells that shape the violin line while keeping violas and cellos well within earshot. It's a strong performance, too: forceful when the strings soar a few bars later, or when horns and woodwinds pronounce the choppy second subject. How refreshing to encounter a conductor who underlines without resorting to phrasal distortion, so that salient points of musical argument register anew and the frame still holds.

So much happens in this performance, especially around the first movement's eerie development section. Passages that in other performances fly past like a familiar work-day landscape suddenly assume new-found significance. The sensation is rather like switching from an InterCity to the local slow train, though choice of tempo is less crucial than telling observation and texture.

ROBERT COWAN

The playing of the Leipzig Gewandhaus is glorious, especially 747 into the first movement, when low strings swell as the principal theme develops; or 355 into the second, when cellos play "quietly and sweetly", with violas and second violins in affectionate attendance. The scherzo is muscular and bracing, and the finale's variations, strongly stated but flexible. The Fourth Symphony's catastrophic ending is a tough act to follow. Some conductors choose an overture, others nothing at all, but Blumstedt pulls an ingenious stroke by programming a choral setting of Job's despair. "Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery," asks the Good Book – apply, given the musical context – and Brahms responds by melding bleakness of mood with contrapuntal ingenuity. The MDR Choir sing superbly, then proceed through eight more short choral pieces, the "Fest und Gedenspruche" showing Brahms' indebtedness to his earliest musical forbears. As with the Symphony, Decca's sound quality could hardly be bettered.

Soul power lifts the brothers Gibb

IT'S MIDNIGHT, and in a van caught in a two-mile tailback Gabriel Byrne is enlisting to three fair-haired friends about the Bee Gees, whom we and 35,000 others have just seen. He was not the sole celebrity. Irish PM Bertie Aherne said he'd be along, and Robbie Williams, opening for The Verve at Castle Slane, had plans to "chopper down". Barry, Robin and Maurice have come some way from their boyhood in Chorkon, Manchester.

And yet, wherever they go, an aura of naivety hangs about them. Is it the name? Is it the bouffant hair and equine incisors so prominent in the early days? Those teeth, like wicket gates, haven't changed, and Barry still boasts a mane that bestows upon him the look of a troubled deity. Down the front, of course, the sight of the boys in the flesh caused women to overhear at the rate of one every 10 minutes, but from anywhere else you could only see them properly on video screens, with a backdrop of distant spires and the sombre Wicklow Mountains.

The brothers don't like touring but with the *Saturday Night Fever* and *Grease* revivals, they'd be fools not to; an undemanding schedule will take them on to single shows

POP
THE BEE GEES
ROYAL SHOWGROUND
DUBLIN



Three of a kind Reez

in London, South America, Africa and Australia. It's an ambitious set, though, 40 songs all told. When they appear they slip instantly into their designated roles. If Barry is the prime mover and romantic, Robin is the beaky stoic and Maurice, whose hair appears to have been relocated to his chin, strides about in shades, fedora and trenchcoat, the Ringo Starr of the band.

With a mammoth set to get through, the Bee Gees don't do repartee and they're out the other side of "Massachusetts" and "I've Gotta Get A Message To You" before we know it. Then Ronan Keating wafts on to retread Boyzone's massacre of "Words". Keating is blond

and cute, almost the ghost of Gibb sibling Andy, scenes from whose short life are played on the screens.

Bee Gees numbers are either strategic missiles or, during their mid-period, the work of catalepsy, and the show sags with "Our Love (Don't Throw It All Away)" until the band is dismissed and the brothers unite for the close harmony only they can do – "Too Much Heaven", "New York Mining Disaster, 1941" and the unbearably eloquent "I Started A Joke".

There's a break for the pipes and drums of the Manx national anthem (all three were born in the Isle of Man), then, with a sonic shriek, it's disco inferno. "Tragedy", "Grease" and "Jive Talkin'" come out fighting. "How Deep Is Your Love" is angelic, and "Stayin' Alive" justifies the legend of the Bee Gees on its own – as the videos show Travolta's hips, Maurice and Robin intone the song's orgasmic falsetto cadence ("uh, uh, uh, uh") and Barry, eternally on helium, squeaks: "You can tell by the way I use my walk/I'm a woman's man/No time to talk." In the annals of pop history, this is huffed white soul nonpareil.

GLYN BROWN

A testing time for the apostles of Elgar

AMONG ELGARIANS, the oratorio *The Apostles* is a difficult subject. How does it rate with its successor, *The Kingdom*? Is it the composer's neglected masterpiece? Largely unknown among the wider public, it received its Proms debut on Sunday evening, 95 years after its premiere. In the continuing story of Elgar's music (what scholars call its "reception history") this may sound a less important event than last month's unveiling of the Third Symphony. In terms of this unsung oratorio, however, it's by no means insignificant.

And anyone who liked the symphony and, out of curiosity, tuned in or turned up to hear *The Apostles*, will not have been disappointed. The performance, with Andrew Davis and the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Chorus, bore out the contention that this is symphonic Elgar, though whether "more wonderful than Gerontius," as August Jaeger, "Nimrod" of the *Enigma Variations*, claimed, remains an open question. There's certainly no lack of invention; and whereas Gerontius looks to the Wagnerian mysteries of Parsifal for its common stock, in *The Apostles* it is Elgar the colourist, the composer of vividly illustrative music, whose voice is com-

PROMS

BBC SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA/BBC
SYMPHONY CHORUS
ROYAL ALBERT HALL

mandingly heard. The oratorio, in its grandeur of form, resembles a garland of memorable leitmotifs. Recalled in the flow of exuberant sound, these solid ideas – for the earthly kingdom, or betrayal – surprise and delight the ear, regardless of the words they accompany.

This is just as well, a cynic might argue, for Elgar's text, compiled with a concordance-like wealth of gospel detail, both thrills the dramatic sense (in the Judas scenes, for example, resolutely sung by bass John Tomlinson), yet can also empty the stomach of all but the most devout admirer of the Word. Bathos and poetry are embedded side by side. A case in point occurs in the second part: Elgar's setting of that Sunday-school list of dubious credits, *The Beatitudes*. Another example concludes the first half: a routine fugato, "Thou art a God of the afflicted," leads to the hushed final bars where the "Turn you to the stronghold" motif, echoed on strings, is sheer magic.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

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HEALTH

No breasts? You can still get breast cancer. And men who put off seeing a doctor about a lump are at high risk. By Roger Dobson

You don't have to be female to get breast cancer

STEPHEN WILSHERE was returning home from a summer holiday when he felt a lump on his right breast. He was certain it had not been there before, and prodded again to make sure it was real. "It was a very hot Sunday and I had put my hand under my shirt to scratch my shoulder when I felt this hard lump. I didn't say anything at the time... but the next day I showed my wife and she said I ought to see the doctor."

A few days later, after a biopsy, he was diagnosed with breast cancer and within a fortnight the ex-pilot and retired computer specialist had a mastectomy, followed by radiotherapy and treatment with tamoxifen.

Breast cancer affects one in 1,000 men, compared to one in 11 women. But a new study suggests that men who are high achievers may carry a much greater than average risk of the disease. Researchers found that rates were highest among graduates, men on high incomes, and those with assets of £35,000-plus.

Breast cancer in men and women is essentially the same disease, so researchers believe that studying it in men may be an effective way of investigating environmental causes.

Dr Ann Hsing and her team believe that the investigation of male breast cancer may provide unique clues about environmental and occupational risks that are difficult to detect in women. This is because

they can be masked by confounding factors such as pregnancy, breastfeeding and age at menstruation.

Male breast cancer is much rarer, but one of the problems is men's reluctance to see a doctor. While messages aimed at women have been highly successful in raising awareness of the disease and promoting self-examination, men are still in the dark ages of health education.

"The worst aspect of male breast cancer is that men are dying of ignorance," says Professor Ian Fentiman, professor of surgical oncology at Guy's Hospital. "We are still finding that the average duration of symptoms is six to nine months."

"That's a long delay, and the reason is that men don't even think about it as a possibility. The real message is that if a man finds a lump on one side it needs to be looked at, particularly if it is not painful."

Treatment for male breast cancer is similar to that for women, but usually involves a mastectomy because there is too little tissue for more conservative surgery to be effective. That is usually backed up by removal of the lymph glands, radiotherapy for the chest wall and treatment with tamoxifen, which appears to have good results with hormone-sensitive male breast cancers.

Men get breast cancer seven years later than women, on average, but survival rates are almost exactly



Stephen Wilshere: 'Anyone can remove the lump; the clever thing is to stop the little bugger coming back again'

Martin Rickett

the same for both sexes if they report their symptoms at the same stage. However, the overall outcome is worse for men because they tend to get diagnosed much later.

One of the mysteries surrounding male breast cancer is the cause, especially in men who do not carry a gene that predisposes for the disease. Over the years a range of culprits have been looked at, including high-temperature jobs that may affect the testes, and overhead power cables which have been thought to affect the release of the hormone melatonin from the pineal gland.

The environmental effects of exposure to hormones from the female contraceptive pill have been investigated; so, too, have various occupational carcinogens, cosmetics and perfumes.

"A whole range of things have

been looked at. We are not sure, for example, whether electromagnetic fields are a risk factor. There was a study which suggested that people who worked with generators and transformers might have a slight increase in risk. The perfume industry has been looked at, and at one time the wearing of bras was considered, but that has been discredited," says Prof Fentiman.

"I don't think there is any occupation where you can turn around and say, 'this job is a serious risk factor for male breast cancer'. The trouble is that you are dealing with small numbers, so there will always be the risk of chance associations."

Research carried out by Dr Anne Hsing of the US National Cancer Institute and colleagues in Italy shows that although risk factors cannot be pinned down with any certainty to

specific jobs, they can be linked to social class and wealth.

The research, reported in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health*, examines the cases of 201 men who died from breast cancer and finds clear differences in socioeconomic circumstances. Those with family incomes above £35,000 had a 50 per cent greater risk than those on lower incomes. Men with assets greater than £35,000 were twice as likely to get the disease as those with few or no assets; those who went to college were also twice as much risk as men who left school early.

Similar observations have been made by Professor Fentiman in his own practice in London: "I have quite a lot of patients with male breast cancer who are high-flying executives," he says.

Just what that means is not clear, but one lifestyle variable between socioeconomic groups is diet.

"As well as reproductive factors, other factors that are related to high socioeconomic status, such as diet and other lifestyle habits, may be important, and deserve further investigation," says Dr Hsing.

For some men, like Stephen Wilshere, the matter is more clear-cut. He carries the gene for breast cancer that caused the death of his mother and one of his daughters. "I have been tested to see whether I am carrying the gene for breast cancer, and I am. It means a one in two chance that any of my children will also carry the gene. If they are male and they are carrying it, there is a 10 per cent chance of their developing cancer, but for females it is between 80 and 85 per cent."

Since his mastectomy, he has worked as a volunteer for Breast Cancer Care, helping other men to come to terms with their diagnosis. "When they get the results, it affects different people in different ways. Some doctors are wonderful at breaking the news, and others are terrible; they back into the furthest corner of the room and say something like, 'I don't think I've very good news for you,'" he says.

The message for men, he concludes, is to get symptoms checked early and to remember that taking out the tumour is not the end of the story. "Anyone can remove the lump; the clever thing is to stop the little bugger coming back again."

Breast Cancer Care's free help line deals with concerns about male breast cancer: 0500 245345

There's a hole in my navel, my nipple, my nose

JOHANNA SPIERS is proud of her piercings. The 21-year-old writer has a ring through her right nostril, a blue jewel, known as a Madonna, above her lip, a half-inch spike just under her bottom lip and a bar-bell through her tongue.

"I like the way they look," she says. "I don't consider myself to be a particularly pretty or outstanding person, but with a few piercings I can look different and therefore I can make myself outstanding. I imagine I'll have them when I'm 61." It is doubtful whether Zara Phillips, Princess Anne's teenage daughter, who sports a metal stud in her tongue, will keep hers into old age, but both girls are merely conform-

The passion for piercing just about everything has taken hold, but is it safe? By Barbara Rowlands

ing with their peers who are happily adorning their tongues, lips, eyebrows and navels.

Many practitioners have noticed a rapid increase since last Christmas when "Scary Spice", Mel B, had her tongue pierced.

"When I first started piercing 14 years ago it was older people having nipple or genital piercings to add a bit of spice to their lives," says Philip Barry, a Bristol-based piercer, and chair of the European Professional Piercers Association. "Now you get a lot of young people, even school children, who

want their navels or tongues pierced."

Is having your tongue, navel or nipple any more dangerous than having your ears pierced? Is there any truth in rumours that you can lose your taste buds, develop tongue paralysis, injure the muscles around the stomach and develop abscesses up your nostrils?

If carried out by trained piercers in hygienic studios, and followed up by meticulous after-care, piercing is remarkably safe. The main danger comes from untrained piercers

working in unhygienic premises, and from poor after-care.

Of the thousands of piercers in Britain, only 450 are registered with the European Professional Piercers Association, which monitors standards of training and hygiene, and a handful belong to the US Association of Professional Piercers. Most piercers are registered with their local councils, but hundreds – the cowboys of the trade – are not, and have little or no training.

Anyone, of any age, can be pierced. According to the

Department of Health, when it comes to body piercing, the courts have ruled that parental rights yield to a child's right to make his or her own decision. Most reputable studios refuse to pierce anyone under 16 without parental consent.

At Cold Steel in Camden, north London, which pierces hundreds of people a week, no one under 18 is pierced without parental consent. "We just don't do it," says Paul King, a master piercer. "People put no thought into their piercings. They just get pierced at their closest studio, rather than shopping around for the best and most reputable one."

Professor Norman Noah, an epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, who is Britain's "piercing tsar", has drawn up guidelines to which tattooists, acupuncturists and now piercers should adhere. He approves new ear-piercing guns and says that equipment is now so safe that danger from blood-borne viruses such as HIV, Hepatitis B and C is virtually non-existent.

Leeds City Council last year banned the use of the piercing gun on any part of the body other than the ears, when a number of people developed infections after having their belly buttons pierced with ear-piercing guns.

Inexperienced "cowboy" piercers may also thrust in jewellery too small for a fresh wound, with the result that the skin swells around it, causing infection. After piercing, the tongue swells up to three times its normal size and, if the bar-bell is too short, it can cause infection. When the swelling has gone down, the bar-bell can be changed to a shorter one.

Piercing is painless – you just feel a crack when you go



For people who can't keep a civil tongue in their head

Adrian Dennis

through the muscle, according to Kirsty Boyd, manager of the Leeds Piercing Company. "As soon as the anaesthetic wears off, in about an hour, then the pain will come through. The tongue will feel uncomfortable for three to four days and the main swelling will go down in a week or two. It's very difficult to eat and you have to be on liquidised food."

But once the wound is fully healed, the ball of the bar-bell can crack your teeth, as Dr Geoff Craig, an oral pathologist at the Sheffield Dental School explains. "There's a tremendous force applied when you bite. If you are eating and bite down on something, not realising your stud is there as well, you can break a tooth."

Last year, the British Dental journal reported the case of a

25-year-old woman admitted to hospital after her tongue had been pierced. Antibiotics failed to clear up the infection and the bar-bell was surgically removed. She later collapsed with Ludwig's angina, a rare inflammation of the subcutaneous tissue below the chin, tongue and roof of the mouth.

"There may be no evidence that having your tongue pierced causes a loss of taste or paralysis, but I would find it difficult to condone the practice," says Dr Craig. "Any swelling can threaten your breathing. The potential for infection is there all the time."

So why do it? Martin Skinner, a social psychologist at the University of Warwick, explains: "It's another way of rebelling and showing you're unique. Each generation has to

do something a bit more to stifle an older generation, and to establish themselves as different. Who knows what people will have to do in 20 years' time? There's a continuum of body piercing from ears, through the nose, which is now pretty acceptable, and the tongue, which is becoming more so. We're not quite at the clitoris, but we're getting there."

Contact The British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, c/o The Royal College of Surgeons, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN; European Professional Piercers Association, 201 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1AZ (01179 603923); The Association of Professional Piercers, PO Box 16044, London NW1 8ZD

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ADDRESS: Nos. 12/15 Western Road, Brighton

TRADE OR CALLING: Manager
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Getting under your skin without getting stuck in

The nightmare of vaccinations could soon be a thing of the past for needlephobes thanks to the jab-free injection.
By Lynn Eaton

If watching junkies shooting up in *Trainspotting* was your worst nightmare or you would rather go to Bognor than have jabs for Borneo, chances are you may have needle phobia – a fear most can understand but few own up to.

"It's all very well being five and terrified, but at 55 you feel a bit stupid," says Jon Fraise, a phobia expert. Needlephobes avoid medical treatment, dental fillings and even, in one case, essential treatment to prevent a cancer spreading. However, a new device could do away with conventional needles – and remove much of the fear for ever.

Called Intraject, it looks like a pen but contains a small gas cylinder where the cartridge would be. The tip is placed against the skin and, when the gas is released, it forces the liquid injection out under such high pressure that it turns solid, shooting into the skin in the same way a needle would.

"It sounds like great news," says Darren Taylor, who nearly passed out when he went to see *Trainspotting*. "It was a bad choice, that film," says the 26-year-old, who works in Lincolnshire. "I didn't faint, but that was only because I looked away. Anything like that on TV and I can't look. I am really squeamish."

A couple of years ago he went to have a wisdom tooth removed – and fainted at the sight of the needle. "It wasn't that it was particularly painful or anything, it was just the thought of it. I tried to tell myself not to worry, but as the time got closer, I got more and more worked up."

"I had an accident last year and cut my arm quite deeply and needed an injection. On two previous occasions I fainted, but this time I didn't. I was quite proud of myself. But I would rather be knocked on the head with a brick than have an injection. It's just fear of the needle."

Men seem to be more frightened of needles than women. "People who tend to faint are well over six foot and weigh 16 stone," says Sue Taylor, a senior nurse adviser with the Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad (Masta). Picking them off the floor afterwards is no easy task, so many nurses will ask even the slightly queasy to lie on the couch, just in case. Although Masta clinics give vaccinations all day, she says they rarely see people who are terrified of needles. "I think needlephobes just stay away."

Paula, 32, who is too embarrassed to give her full name, admits her fear of needles would prevent her going to any exotic holiday destination. "I can't even take my daughter for an injection. I've always been frightened. I've had a lot of bad experiences with blood tests, especially one when the doctor couldn't find a vein. People don't understand. They say it's nothing. But it is so traumatic. It's not the pain, it's the thought of it."

The Intraject device, designed by Weston Medical Limited, is about to



Intraject may mean that you – and Elizabeth Taylor – will never have to face a needle again

be used in clinical trials with a new drug for hepatitis C being developed by Hoffmann-LaRoche. It is also being considered for use in a flu vaccine. Beyond that, its uses are potentially enormous, says the company's chief executive, Christopher Samler. "We are looking at any drugs that are currently being given by conventional needles and

mones or heparin (an anticoagulant used after surgery to thin the blood).

"We are not talking about intravenous drugs," says Mr Samler, which rules out the *Trainspotting* set. "But it could be used by people who have an allergy to bee stings or peanuts, who could keep the antidote in a bag to use themselves, if they ever needed it."

option is a course in systematic desensitisation to tackle phobias. These are available both on the NHS and privately. They begin by explaining how your body reacts when you panic, with a racing heart, sweating and dizziness, and gradually introduce you to the thing that you fear. "Explaining the psychological process helps demystify

them to take home and handle. Eventually I may ask their GP or practice nurse to take a small blood sample. I also teach them to challenge negative thoughts, to focus on how brief their distress is going to be and how much they are likely to enjoy their holiday."

Although it doesn't always work, he reckons that most patients will be able to have essential injections afterwards. It may be more practical than waiting for the Intraject, which, after all, will offer only a limited alternative. The manufacturers have yet to come up with a device that will do away with needles for blood tests – the procedure that phobes fear most of all. But they are working on it.

'Living with Fear' (McGraw Hill), by Professor Isaac Marks, of the Institute of Psychiatry, tackles all phobias, including needles. *Triumph Over Phobia* offers self-help groups run by people who have overcome phobias – for details send an a/c to Triumph Over Phobia UK, PO Box 1831, Bath BA2 4XW; the Institute of Psychiatry runs a computerised course on tackling phobias – call 0171-919 3365

Needlephobes dodge medical care and dental fillings. One sufferer even avoided essential treatment to stop a cancer spreading

syringes that have to be given to the subcutaneous tissue – and don't require variable doses."

Which means that people with diabetes who inject daily with variable amounts of insulin won't benefit. At the moment Intraject delivers a fixed dose, which would be put into the device by the drug company.

But it could help people with renal failure or cancer who are injecting erythropoietin (a hormone that stimulates red blood cell production) and those using growth hor-

Encouraging oews. But Intraject doesn't come cheap. At around 80p for the device alone (excluding any drug inside) it costs 10 times the traditional needle and syringe. Nor is it totally pain-free. Mr Samler reports that it feels as if someone has flicked your skin sharply. And the whooshing noise as the gas is released may frighten some users.

But the biggest catch is that the device is unlikely to be available until 2001, at the earliest. So, for those who can't wait that long, the remaining

it," says Mr Fraise, who is a clinical psychologist with Wakefield and Pontefract Community Health Trust. "The sufferers stop seeing themselves as loopy."

He then teaches phobics to relax and concentrate on their breathing. Only when they have learnt these skills will he gradually introduce the syringe, perhaps at first having it across the room, then gradually bringing it nearer.

"I will sometimes give a patient a syringe without a needle in it for

A QUESTION OF HEALTH

A NEW SERIES IN WHICH READERS' HEALTH QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED BY DR FRED KAVALIER

My son is too embarrassed to see a doctor

My 13-year-old son has developed firm lumps behind both of his nipples and he is convinced that he is going to grow breasts. He is an over-comer with embarrassment that he refuses to show our family doctor. Is there anything we can do to stop them growing?

I'm not surprised that your son is alarmed. He is at a time in his life when he is expecting some of his body parts to grow, but not his breasts. He is showing signs of male adolescent gynecomastia, which is a fancy name for breast enlargement in teenage boys at the time of puberty.

It can be frightening and even a bit painful. But it is entirely normal and never gets beyond the stage of a small circular lump behind the nipple. Try to reassure him that it is a sign that his adult hormones are coming into play, and point him in the direction of *The Diary of a Teenage Boy*, by Aidan Macfarlane and Ann McPherson (Oxford University Press). He doesn't need to see a doctor if he doesn't want to.

I've developed an inguinal hernia and I have been told that the only way to get rid of it is with an operation. Isn't there any other way of curing it, like exercises to strengthen the abdominal muscles?

Hernias (with one special exception) never go away by themselves, and I have never heard of any effective treatment for them apart from surgery. An inguinal hernia is caused by hole in the muscular wall that holds the intestines inside the abdomen. The lump that appears is a loop of intestine wiggling its way out through the hole in the muscle. If you are unlucky, it may get stuck, or strangulated, and it then has to be repaired as an emergency. The old-fashioned way of repairing hernias was very similar to darning a sock.

Newer techniques use a piece of mesh, which seems to work just as well, and causes less pain and scarring. The exception to the rule about hernias repairing themselves is when a baby is born with a hernia at the site of the umbilical cord attachment. These can be embarrassingly large, but almost always cure themselves by the age of three or four.

I've been told that I have a chlamydia vaginal infection. Will it make me infertile?

It could make you infertile by causing blocked fallopian tubes and that is why it is absolutely essential that it is effectively treated as soon as possible. Chlamydia infection is caused by a microscopic organism which can be transmitted sexually. It takes two partners to pass chlamy-

dia infection from one to another, and it is equally important for both sexual partners to be tested and treated.

The treatment is with antibiotics. You and your partner should both arrange to go to a genito-urinary medicine clinic. There is increasing evidence in favour of screening all sexually active women for chlamydia, because infections can have no symptoms, but cause serious and long-lasting damage.

My hands are becoming increasingly shaky as I get older (I am now 52). The shaking disappears when I am not trying to hold something steady. My mother had exactly the same complaint and she was told that it is not Parkinson's Disease. Any ideas?

This sounds like essential tremor, a neurological condition which often runs in families. The tremor comes on in middle age and gets more severe with increasing age. Occasionally, there is also some shaking of the head, and the voice can also be a bit tremulous. When the muscles are tired, the tremor is worse. People sometimes notice that an alcoholic drink makes the tremor much better, but the effect of alcohol wears off quite quickly. Beta-blockers sometimes help this type of tremor. You need to talk to your doctor and, if there is any doubt about the cause of the tremor, perhaps you need to see a neurologist.

My toenails are unbelievably mangy and disgusting. Believe it or not, my doctor sent a sample of the nails to the laboratory and discovered that it was caused by a fungus. He refuses to treat them, however, on the grounds that I am a carrier of hepatitis C. This seems completely unreasonable to me.

The most effective treatment for fungal toe nail infections is a tablet called terbinafine, which has to be taken every day for several months. This will cure about 80 per cent of infections. The problem is that a small number of people who take this drug can develop serious liver problems. If your liver is already damaged by hepatitis C, I can understand your doctor's reluctance to put you at risk of further damage, which can occasionally be life-threatening. There are some nail paints available on prescription for these infections, but none is as effective as terbinafine tablets.

Please send your questions to *A Question of Health*, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Fax 0171-293 2182; unfortunately, Dr Kavalier cannot respond to individual inquiries



Marie Langley in control at home

Will Walker/North News

Woman who takes the strain out of pain

IT HAPPENED 10 years ago, but Marie Langley can still remember her consultant's words. "He looked at my notes and saw I'd already had spinal surgery and so on. Then he simply said: 'Well, there's nothing I can do for this at all. You'll just have to go away and learn to live with it. Off you go now.'"

The "it" Mrs Langley had to live with was constant, grinding pain, the legacy of a bad fall almost five years before. She had slipped on a highly polished floor at the primary school where she was a teacher. She was left facing permanent physical disablement and life in a wheelchair. "After three years I went back to work – but I couldn't manage. It wasn't anything to do with the wheelchair. It was the pain."

Looking at Mrs Langley now, wheelchair-bound but confident, lively and smiling, it is hard to believe that she was ever ground down by depression, anxiety and pain. But hearing the consultant

Thousands of sufferers have reason to be grateful that Marie Langley refused to heed doctor's orders. By Heather Welford

dismiss any shred of hope triggered an overwhelming depression that led to suicidal feelings.

"I know now that the emotional pain of despair makes physical pain even worse," she says. "Keeping up the façade, hiding the pain and depression from other people, is exhausting. I have found that tackling that emotional pain can be the first step to coping with the physical sort."

Now Mrs Langley, 65, runs Unwind, a non-profit-making international network of support for pain and stress, publishing tapes and books used by thousands of people, and their medical advisers. She is in daily contact with sufferers through her helpline, with other support groups and with physicians and surgeons all over the world.

Mrs Langley's work developed out of her own struggle to find a way out of her pain, knowing that the medical route was closed. With the constant support of her family, she read about some of the mainly American techniques of pain management. She learnt about relaxation techniques to cope with stress and anxiety and researched whole areas of complementary medicine and self-help therapies.

The list of therapies she draws from is vast. She uses, among others, aromatherapy, reflexology, massage, visualisation and colour therapy. "The crucial one is relaxation. I use it all the time, literally. I don't have to think about it. It has become second nature."

She stresses that, while she no longer needs painkillers, she's not

against drugs. "Unwind works with doctors, hand in hand with drug therapy, when it's needed. But the crucial thing is that self-help can put the sufferer in control of the pain, and not the other way round."

She explains: "What works for one person may not work for another person. And when you're in any sort of pain, you can suffer setbacks; you can feel nothing anyone can say to you is any good. You've tried everything, and nothing helps. Giving someone a way out of hopelessness can be the first step."

Mrs Langley's background in teaching at primary school has helped her develop her materials. A four-part series of *Break Free* books, each focusing on one aspect (depression, anxiety, pain and negative thoughts), gives sufferers a

highly practical step-by-step strategy. "Sometimes, you need to tunnel your way through the pain, but you can only do it in tiny stages," says Mrs Langley. "Sometimes, people just aren't ready to do it. I can sometimes tell in their voice, if they are on the phone, that the time isn't right for them. But we keep in touch, and it may happen later."

Mrs Langley's aim is that doctors will recommend other treatments to patients rather than sending them away without hope. "Things have really changed in the last 10 years, but people still end up thinking there's no way out. I'd like to see more doctors give patients a list of resources where they can get help for themselves. Why can't they say: 'I'm really sorry we can't take this any further, but here's something you can do for yourself.'"

For Unwind's self-help programmes, send an A5 a/c to 3 Alderlea Close, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 1DS

The biggest-ever study of heart disease seemed to show cigarettes were not bad for you. Don't you believe it. By Annabel Ferriman

Cats with rubber teeth prove smoking kills

As someone who managed to give up smoking only by promising myself that I could take it up again when I reached 65, I was delighted to read last week that smoking may not be a risk factor for heart disease after all.

Doctors working on the world's largest study of heart disease - involving 150,000 people in 21 countries - told a cardiology conference in Vienna that the fall in heart disease among the populations studied did not exactly match the decline in the classic risk factors, namely smoking, raised blood pressure, high cholesterol and obesity. In some places where the risk factors declined steeply, the incidence of disease fell only slightly; in others, where the change in risky behaviour was small, the fall was sharp.

So does this mean that we can all ignore the health educators' exhortations to give up smoking and eat less fatty foods? Absolutely not, says Professor Hugh Tunstall-Pedoe, director of the cardiovascular epidemiology unit at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, and one of the study's chief organisers.

"None of our results suggest that the campaigns against fatty food and smoking were wrong, just that there is more to the story than that. If we had shown a perfect correlation between the classic risk factors and heart disease, that would have made the subject of heart disease rather boring. Instead, our results leave room for the matter to be more complicated," he says.

The study, called the WHO Monica Project (from MONitoring Cardiovascular disease), which covers countries as diverse as China, Russia, Canada and Australia, showed that blood pressure and smoking were coming down in most of the populations studied, cholesterol levels were not changing much and people were getting fatter. But the reductions in blood pressure and smoking did not seem to match the fall in heart attacks.

"There were large differences in the rate of decline in populations with similar trends in risk factors," adds Prof Tunstall-Pedoe. "For example, the reduction in risk factors was similar in Glasgow and north Karelia in Finland, yet the fall in

deaths from heart disease was much higher in Karelia."

The professor says that scientists know from hundreds of other studies that the classic risk factors are important. He and his team in Dundee recently published, in the *British Medical Journal*, a study comparing the importance of the classic risk factors with 20 other factors that had been put forward in recent years.

"The classic ones came out on top," he says, "with the exception of one or two minor differences. A diet rich in potassium seemed to have a protective effect against cardiovascular disease and, for women, having a 'type A' - a driven, ambitious

personality, seemed to confer some benefit. So what is distorting the Monica results? Why isn't the match better? There are four reasons, according to Prof Tunstall-Pedoe. "The first problem is one of measurement. In a study with 38 centres in 21 countries there is a huge problem in standardising measurements. Also, personnel change, so as soon as one team has learnt what to do, its members move on."

People love the idea of a study that overturns the health rules of the last 20 years because they want permission to indulge their habits

Secondly, because most trends - in smoking, blood pressure and heart disease - were going down, we did not have as great a heterogeneity of trends as we would have

liked. The changes we were measuring were not that large compared to the possible errors in measurement. For research purposes - though not for other reasons - we would have liked a better spread of trends, with some going up."

The third problem was one of time lag. If people reduce their risk of heart disease by changing their lifestyle, there is a time lag before the effects are seen.

This seems to vary according to different populations and their characteristics (some populations have naturally low levels of cholesterol, for example), which makes comparisons difficult. The reduction in risk factors among the Scottish population is now paying off in reduced rates of disease, but it has taken longer in that country than in some others.

Finally, Prof Tunstall-Pedoe admits that there may be other determinants of heart disease, apart from the classic risk factors. Some of these, such as diet, were known about when the study was set up 20 years ago, but were too difficult to measure. Others have emerged more recently.

"The importance of eating a diet rich in fruit and vegetables is very strong from the epidemiological standpoint," he says. Such a diet, full of anti-oxidant vitamins, seems to be useful in preventing disease, but no one knows exactly what dose of which vitamin is playing the crucial part.

Another possible cause of heart disease is the presence of low-level chronic infection, according to Professor Brian Pentecost, the medical director of the British Heart Foundation, who welcomed the study. But this factor has emerged in recent years, and was not suspected when the Monica study was set up.

"There have been a number of pilot studies of antibiotic treatment being given to people who have had heart attacks and who have evidence of infection, which have shown some benefit in preventing further attacks," says Prof Pentecost. Various infections have been implicated, including chronic periodontal disease and chlamydia, but it is not yet known which are important.

If chronic low-grade infection were found to be a culprit in heart disease, it would help to explain why



The fall in smoking did not match the reduction in heart disease, but that is no reason to think cigarettes are safe

new treatments tended to be those in which heart attack survival and mortality were improving most."

Another factor may have also been in play. "Those countries that adopted the most modern treatments were also the wealthiest, so it may have been the wealth and material quality of life that played as great a part in reducing death as the treatments themselves," says Prof Pentecost.

The study showed that heart disease is still not completely understood. But that does not mean that doctors are merely clinging to the wreckage when they reiterate the health messages that they have sent out for the last 20 years. It means that there may be additional factors that need to be taken into account," he adds.

Or, as Professor Tunstall-Pedoe puts it: "If you get eaten by a crocodile when you are expecting lions and tigers, it does not mean that big cats have rubber teeth."

People love the idea of a study that overturns all the health rules of the last 20 years, partly because they want permission to indulge their habits but also because they like the idea that all those clever doctors got it wrong. But they cannot seize on this one as an answer to their prayers.

Beating the booze with a dry sense of humour

Nick Charles was the sort of drunk who slept rough and knocked back meths and hair lacquer. Twenty-one years later he has helped 8,000 people beat alcoholism By Katherine Miller

NICK CHARLES can still remember a time he was so drunk that he jumped from the window of a rural police station into a vat of sour milk from a neighbouring dairy farm. Recovered alcoholics invariably have great stories, but as Charles reminds patients at his West London clinic "Any story about drunkenness is only funny if you're not going to do it again."

He has been sober for the last 21 years, and has devoted the last nine to helping other alcoholics at the Chaucer Clinic in the grounds of Ealing Hospital. Since founding the clinic nine years ago he's helped some 8,000 alcoholics "unlearn" their habits, claiming an 87 per

He is 'one of the unfortunate few for whom drink opens the door to an inner world where real life does not exist'

cent success rate. Last September, he received the MBE for his services to alcoholics.

Charles, a straight-talking Midlander, is modest about his achievements, personal and otherwise. He stresses that he is not in recovery, but rather "just a guy who doesn't drink any more. I couldn't even tell you if my wife has a bottle of wine in the fridge." No mean achievement for someone who spent years sleeping rough, knocking back meths and hair lacquer. After being hospitalised 23 times, he finally quit drinking when he discovered that his mother had been killed by a passing car. The funeral had already taken place and Charles will never know



Group therapy at the Chaucer Clinic helps patients to confront the trauma that triggered their alcoholism

Andrew Burrman

whether her death was suicide, or was caused by a moment of absentmindedness. Either way, his father said she was "distressed" by her son's alcoholism.

Ironically, it was his father who offered the teenage Charles his first drink. "Suddenly, I was better-looking, more confident, a better driver, everything I wanted to be." If only. He is, he admits, one of "the unfortunate few for whom drink opens the

door to an inner world where real life does not exist". Social drinkers cannot appreciate what that means. Charles says: "Doctors, social workers and journalists may try to be sympathetic. But they can never grasp the extent of conceal, delusion and dishonesty in the mind of the alcoholic."

Charles married for the first time at the age of 21 and divorced six years later, "by which time I was un-

employable". His second marriage, which he recalls only dimly "through the bottom of a glass", lasted nine months. He now lives in Surrey with Kelly, his third wife and soulmate for the past 21 years. His grandfather, a senior policeman, died of drink and Kelly's mother was an alcoholic. Convinced that 50 per cent of alcoholics have a genetic intolerance to alcohol, the couple decided long ago not to have children.

Instead, Charles has his patients and his staff, usually former alcoholics. The Chaucer treats 36 patients at a time, whose weekly fees of £268 are paid for by the DSS, the local authority and from each resident's income support allowance.

Along with the celebrity names, residents have included footballers, army officers and a headmistress. Alcoholics Anonymous, "the only alternative to my clinic", didn't work

for Charles, and he is critical of the programme because it allows people to prolong their "recovery", in some cases for a lifetime, and thus swap one dependency for another.

Alcoholics stay at the Chaucer clinic for at least 18 weeks, but no more than eight months. The programme begins with detoxification, when a patient is supervised by a doctor and, if necessary, prescribed Librium to counter withdrawal symptoms,

which can include profuse sweating, anxiety attacks and fits.

After detoxification, patients are given work therapy. They may repair furniture, paint walls, cook, clean, or work in the office. "Alcohol has been their dearest friend for years and when you take it away from them you leave an enormous void, so a day lasts for ever," says Charles. "Some of them have not worked for years." During their free time, clients are encouraged to pursue childhood hobbies, take up new ones, or share their expertise with others.

The third phase of treatment involves group discussions and individual therapy, designed to help patients confront the trauma that

One man was at the clinic for seven months before he could admit he had accidentally killed his own child

triggered their alcoholism. The stories can be harrowing, although Charles says there is the odd miracle amid the tragedy. One man was there for seven months before he could admit he had accidentally killed his own child. He turned to drink for consolation, and was thrown out by his wife. Yet therapy finally helped the young father to achieve sobriety, and he returned home to resolve his marriage.

For referrals to the Chaucer Clinic contact Nick de Villiers (0181-571 4616).

Nick Charles's autobiography, *Through A Glass Brightly*, is published by Robson books, price £16.95

MEDIA

Premier League clubs may want to be players in the media market – will that be good or bad for the fans? By Paul McCann

Premier teams prepare to kick into digital TV

It has often been said that once a millionaire has more money than he can ever spend he gets himself three things: a new wife, a newspaper and a football team. This adage, without the bit about a new wife, looks like becoming a business strategy rather than just a stereotype of the millionaire's ego.

News Corporation and Tottenham Hotspur have convincingly killed last week's story that they are in talks that would see Rupert Murdoch become the first media baron to own an English football team since Robert Maxwell's involvement with Oxford United in the Eighties.

But developments at Manchester United this month show that television and football will increasingly become the same business. And it shows that it may be football that moves into media, rather than the other way around.

Despite Murdoch's purchase of the Los Angeles Dodgers for £200m, in March this year, his move into the Premier League is not inevitable.

"In the UK there is no local television market," says Matthew Horsman, who is a media analyst at the brokers Henderson Crosthwaite. "Owning the Dodgers allows you to exploit their local television deals. Here, you are dealing with a monopolistic organisation – the Football League."

Horsman believes that one of the barriers for Sky entering the football business itself is that it would irritate the rest of the teams in the league. They would not want to deal with Sky both as a buyer of foot-

ball rights, and as one of the joint owners of those rights.

What would cause this to change is the outcome of a Restrictive Practices Court case in January, brought by the Office of Fair Trading against the Premier League.

The OFT wants the court to decide whether the Premiership teams' grouping of themselves together to sell their television rights in one deal amounts to a monopoly. The deal that is under scrutiny is the one between the Premiership, Sky and the BBC, and a decision is due by May.

"If the OFT wins the case, the television rights to games will revert back to clubs and will present us with a very interesting scenario," says Maurice Watkins, Manchester United's solicitor.

"As things stand, the case is being defended by the Premier League and the clubs who make it up." But Manchester United has put itself in a position to benefit whichever way the case plays out.

The Old Trafford giant launched its own digital channel earlier this month, in a joint venture with Granada and Sky. At present, it is little more than an electronic version of the official club magazines.

There is archive footage of old United games, and there will be player interviews, team news and, importantly, a home shopping service for merchandise. But this amounts to a peripheral business, leveraging extra value from fans' obsessional relationship with their teams.

Paul Ridley, the managing director of MUTV, argues that he is giv-

ing access to those who are unable to see Manchester United play. "The fan base for Manchester United is 4 million. But only 56,000 can get in to a game at Old Trafford."

Brian Barwick, head of sport at ITV, is watching developments with interest. "There is an inevitability about team channels and, because there is no bigger team in town than Manchester United, everyone will be watching the level of interest."

Only Manchester United, and perhaps Rangers in Scotland, have a big enough fan base to have a dedicated television channel to themselves. If the business takes off, there are likely to be joint channels offering split programming. Paul Ridley believes that the channels are needed because of the way football has changed: "Football is no longer just about kicking a ball. Football is show business and celebrity. It is David Beckham and Posh Spice."

But, as *The Guardian* sports writer Jim White pointed out when debating with Ridley at the Edinburgh Television Festival, on 16 September MUTV will be showing Red Hot Update and Vintage Reds, while the football team will be playing in the Champions' League.

"The key to the whole thing is to show the football," said White, who also writes for a United fanzine. "It is about obtaining the rights to live matches."

Which is why Manchester United wins, even if it and the Premier League "lose" in the Restrictive Practices Court. If the deal with Sky and the BBC is torn up, it will free teams with their own channels to cut



Man United's dedicated digital channel is a whole new ball-game for Alex Ferguson's team and the fans

David Ashtown

out the middleman and charge viewers for games themselves.

Tempting as this may seem to the big clubs, there remains a number of questions about how they would actually charge viewers, and the effect that this would have.

Subscription works at the moment, but only on the basis of fans being able to see an entire league,

not just their team. As was pointed out in the Edinburgh debate, many of those tuning in to see Manchester United play are hoping to see them get beaten.

Pay-per-view has been proved to work for some one-off boxing matches, but no one knows whether it is sustainable for an entire football league. The teams have to work out

if they want to create electronic season ticket holders, or just use pay-per-view for special games.

When Sky proposed pay-per-view to the Premier League chairmen earlier this year, it was proposing to charge extra for games it does not currently show.

The creation of a European super-league would also provide a

new television product that could be charged for on a pay-per-view basis.

What all these developments have in common is the move of football companies away from being sports companies to being media owners. And once they are all media owners, there is far more chance that Rupert Murdoch will be joining them as a football club owner.

I'm a bit of a HOOT in the office.

At home I want somebody to entertain me.

I want to watch

SEINFELD every night.

Not just once a week.

CAN'T WAIT. WON'T WAIT.

FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY EVERY NIGHT

7PM	Roseanne	9PM	Ellen	11PM	Britcom
7.30	Cosby	9.30	Seinfeld	11.30	Larry Sanders
8PM	Grace Under Fire	10PM	Frasier	12PM	Letterman
8.30	Spin City	10.30	Cheers	1AM	Saturday Night Live



A fair warning: journo, check your facts

Three US journalists are sacked for lying. We should take note. By Andrew Marshall in Washington

THE STORY of Mike Barnicle, the columnist at the *Boston Globe* whose columns failed the fact test, seemed to be over once he had resigned. It wasn't. James Hirsch, who covered the story for *The Wall Street Journal*, wrote that the *New York Times* Company, which owns the *Globe*, had "declined to comment." As it turned out, he had not called the NYT's spokesperson, Nancy Nielsen, and she had issued a two-sentence statement. It wasn't much, but it was something, and that was that for Mr Hirsch. He was dismissed.

The last year has seen an epidemic of resignations, sackings and disciplining in the American media. Steven Glass turned out fallacious articles for *The New Republic* and others; CNN's ill-fated Taiwan story, claiming that the US had used nerve gas during the Vietnam War, was swiftly rubbished; as well as Mr Barnicle, Patricia Smith, also of the *Boston Globe*, resigned after inventing people and quotes.

Leaving the electronic media to one side, the cases of Mr Hirsch, Mr Barnicle and Mr Glass are all quite different. In particular, most journalists will feel a frisson over the Hirsch case. What he wrote was certainly untrue, but, in the context of the lives most reporters lead, the lie was understandable. Mr Hirsch himself told *The New York Times* that he had been on a tight deadline, and had thought (based on earlier conversations with Ms Nielsen) that she would have no comment. Most journalists would count her statement as a voluble form of "no comment."

Steven Glass, on the other hand, would not have lasted 10 minutes at the *Journal*. He made up stories from start to finish, even going to the length of fabricating a website and a voice-mail box for a company that he had invented.

Mike Barnicle, late of the 'Boston Globe'

Mike Barnicle falls somewhere in the middle, in a way that illustrates something important about all three cases. He was a long-time city columnist for the *Globe* who had risen through the ranks. He was writing in a tradition popularised by writers such as Jimmy Breslin and Mike Royko, of straightforward, hard-hitting narratives of local folk and their ways. The column for which Mr Barnicle was pulled up concerned two children in a cancer ward, one white, one black. It was a heartwarming story of hands stretched across a racial and class divide, but it proved impossible to substantiate.

The culture within which writers such as Mr Barnicle grew up was more accommodating to the foibles of these journalists than, say, to court reporters. Newspapers have subcultures that set the standards as much as contracts or written rules. But, over time, these cultures change; Mr Barnicle may not have been sufficiently aware of the shift.

Mr Glass was clearly operating outside any relationship with the truth. He had moved rapidly to the *New Republic*, a magazine with a high reputation to defend. He did not understand that, and continued to act in the way he had on much smaller publications, where a collision with the outside world was less likely. Mr Hirsch had the misfortune to make a slip-up on the wrong story – one that concerned reporters making things up, and about a rival newspaper group, where the standards of expected behaviour were far more rigorous.

Both Mr Hirsch and Mr Glass knew that what they were doing was wrong, but the former did not think it was significant, and the latter thought he wouldn't get caught. Mr Barnicle's case seems to be different. He believed what he was doing was right, because it had been in the past.

The media is in the throes of great change, upsetting old assumptions about what is and isn't right. In particular, print is increasingly a hard-nosed business driven by managers, not journalists, and some cosy old subcultures are disintegrating under that pressure. Equally, the media is big news in America, and under greater scrutiny than ever before. All three journalists were shipped by other media: Mr Hirsch by the *New York Times* Company, Mr Barnicle by a former employee of the *Reader's Digest*, and Mr Glass by another magazine.

Journalists are also a popular target. The press and television are not held in high regard by Americans, and the Monica Lewinsky affair has not helped. Many criticisms of the early reporting of the affair – that it was unsorted and not based in reliable fact – have lessened now that it is clear that the stories had substance. But while the media may feel vindicated, most people think the story has been over-reported, and want to know less about it.

The hunting-season has probably only just begun. Scott Shuger, who writes a regular column on the press for the Internet service "Slate," says that there are two more journalists on other papers who are "plagiarists and fiction writers", and that he may publicly expose them. Plenty of people would be happy to see more journalists put on their ear. That sound that you hear in the newsrooms may just be the noise of axes grinding: it's time to start making that extra call, and checking your notebooks.

Diana: the story of the story

On Saturday 30 August 1997, as midnight passed, a few journalists prepared to while away the time until their shifts ended. Five hours later, the story of the decade had broken. Gabriel Thompson tells the story of the night Diana died

12.30-1.10am: 'Have you heard the news?'

It had been a good night out and, after a little too much wine, I decided that a cup of coffee before bed was a good idea. Waiting for the kettle to boil I turned on the television as the first reports of the crash were coming in. From my time working on the *Independent on Sunday* I knew that its news operation closed at 12.30. It was going to miss the story completely. I panicked, and reached for the telephone.

Elsewhere in London, Richard Sambrook was being teased about the fact that he always carried a pager. Sambrook, the BBC's head of newsgathering, pointed out: "I need it in case the Queen Mother dies, or something." A few minutes later, the pager went off.

At *The Sunday Times*, the night editor Ian Coxon was drinking coffee as an uneventful day drew to a close. A colleague rushed into the room with news of the crash. Coxon didn't get to finish his coffee.

After 15 minutes of fuming at colleagues' answering machines and swearing at endless ringing tones, I got through to Colin Hughes, then deputy editor of *The Independent*, who was at home in bed. As I told him what had happened, Hughes said immediately: "She's dead."

Another journalist caught the late-night news and rushed off to his office. He completely forgot to tell his wife what he was doing.

1.10-2.30am: 'Stop the presses'

Hughes made up his mind. There was no one at the *Independent on Sunday*, but he was a reporter and I was a sub. We could be at the office in 30 minutes, and get a front page out to the printers by 2.30am - our last chance of the night. He rang the printers and told them to stop the presses. He ran for his car, and I jumped into a cab.

At *The Sunday Times*, Coxon was blessing his luck. Not only did he have enough staff but, by coincidence, the paper's royal correspondent was doing a stint on the night news desk.

Nik Gowing, one of BBC World Television's most experienced new presenters, had been asleep for just 40 minutes when the telephone rang. By 1.30am he was in a cab heading for the office. By 2.30am he was broadcasting live - and would continue to do so until 7.30am.

At one radio station, a beleaguered reporter was so afraid to leave his desk that he resorted to relieving himself into a Coke bottle.

2.30-3.30am: 'Does anyone KNOW anything?'

After the first rush to get the news out, everyone began the hunt for hard facts.

At the *Independent on Sunday* we had been given a reprieve by the printers, and a deadline - 3.30am. Most other papers had also managed to get a story about the crash out to their printers, and were preparing the next edition.

At the BBC, they had decided to broadcast their 24-hour World channel on both BBC1 and BBC2 throughout the night.

Everyone was wondering what had happened to Diana. Buckingham Palace had delayed making a statement; there was no real information coming from the Government; the French authorities were being obtuse.

I was talking to a French radio station, trading "five interview with British journalist" for any news they had. They knew no more than we did. Gowing was growing more and more suspicious as he tried to separate fact from speculation. Coxon feared that the very paucity of information indicated that there was grim news to come.

We knew Dodi was dead. But



BBC announcer Nik Gowing reads the official confirmation of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, at 5.17am

Diana? She was concussed, she had a broken arm, she was severely injured - which story to believe?

In the midst of all this, Gowing's desktop printer broke down. Looking for some technical support, he spotted a chap with a beard and wearing jeans, wandering through the newsroom. Gowing demanded his aid in fixing the printer. The bearded man looked surprised but did oblige. And that is how Gowing first met Richard Ayre, deputy chief executive of BBC News.

3.30-4.30am: 'The Manila connection'

Our luck changed. Because the crash was in France, it was a matter for the Foreign Office. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was in Manila. The time difference meant that Cook and his staff were already out of bed and therefore fair game for the British reporters who had accompanied them on the trip.

The official version is that Diana's death was confirmed just

before 5am London time. The truth is that, long before then, the reporters with Cook had rung in with unofficial confirmation of the death. All night we had survived on official statements and guesswork. Finally, we had hard news about Diana.

For the *Independent on Sunday*, Steve Crawshaw rang from Manila. Hughes, who likes to behave in a calm and collected manner in such situations, shouted "Yes, yes, yes!" We finally had some news from someone we knew and could trust. Sadly, the news was that Diana was dead.

4.30-5.30am: 'Diana killed in crash'

Hard news was finally arriving. We learnt that there would be an announcement simultaneously in Paris and Manila, shortly before 5am. At the *Independent on Sunday* we had already acted on Crawshaw's information and remade the front page with the story of Diana's death. The page was sent

to the print sites with strict instructions that they were not to start printing without our say-so.

The confirmation came just before 5am. We were printing it three minutes later.

At the BBC, Gowing read the confirmation - a "snap" from the Press Association - twice on air. Twenty minutes later, Buckingham Palace issued its own confirmation. Gowing had his first and only attack of nerves, and calmly announced the news. No one knows for sure how many people around the world saw that broadcast, but the best estimate is 500 million.

5.30-7.30am: 'Time to go home'

The end of the story had been told. No newspaper could keep printing any longer. Television and radio had reported the news and were now looking for more angles, and more opinions, to flesh out the coverage.

At *The Sunday Times*, Coxon was already thinking about how the

paper would deal with the story in the following week's edition.

At the *Independent on Sunday*, Hughes was calling in staff from the daily *Independent* to prepare the next day's paper.

Gowing handed over to another presenter and slipped quietly away. Sambrook was organising the movement of reports, cameramen, engineers and equipment to Paris.

I couldn't get a taxi home - they were all booked to rush journalists to their newsrooms around London.

It was a new day. Sambrook was delighted to discover that a royal correspondent had cut short her holiday in Devon and was on her way to London. By taxi.

A freelance cameraman was sent to Buckingham Palace. He found plenty of people - almost all clubbers who had been dancing the night away as the news broke.

As for the journalist who rushed off to his office without telling his wife what he was doing - she caught him coming home at 7.30am, and still thinks he's having an affair.

THE WORD ON THE STREET

AN EDINBURGH Television Festival Session on honesty in documentaries started to cut up rough for *The Guardian* when some of the audience started to attack its media editor, who was chairing the session. They were unhappy about his paper's exposure of Carlton's allegedly faked documentary *The Connection*. The backlash will not end there. It is rumoured that Clark Productions, which made the *Hard News* series, is investigating *The Guardian* story. A documentary more sympathetic to the paper is being made by another production company and there are tales of antagonism between the two investigative teams. Proof, if it were needed, that the media is ready to disappear up its own behind at the drop of a hat.

COMPETITION TO be the most famous person at the festival was unusually stiff this year, with one Edward Windsor appearing close to Ms Louise Woodward on the delegate list. Mr Windsor, of Ardent Productions, had to collect his delegate tickets just like everyone else and dutifully hand them in. However, his bodyguard just gave the ticket collectors a hard stare before going wherever he wanted, and Ardent's travel people did not have to battle to get a last-minute hotel booking. He apparently stayed at Hollywood Palace. Less happy with his accommodation was the media correspondent of *The Express*. Rather than stay in a hotel he was given the Express flat, which had been used by arts writers; it looked like one of the junkies' flats in Trinspotting. There were no sheets, no towels, no toilet paper and no hot water. Bear cans were piled high. Once, under Beaverbrook, it was a point of honour for Express correspondents to travel in greater style than rivals, staying at the best hotels in every city in the world. What a difference 3 million copies a day makes.

ELISABETH MURDOCH's address to the festival was so emphatically delivered that most discussion afterwards was about who her drama coach is. But she wasn't the only one with an image consultant working hard for her. Louise Woodward arrived at a sponsor's party holding hands with the young daughter of her lawyer, Barry Scheck. It made a most touching image.

The world of work has changed. Hunter Davies looks back on 40 years of being a happy hack

Working to find the write stuff

I STARTED work 40 years ago today. I still have the letter, framed on my wall, from Robert Walker, news editor of the *Manchester Evening Chronicle*, confirming my appointment as a reporter. The salary in September 1958 was £14 a week.

I was 22 and had just left Durham University where I had written for *Palmolive*, the student paper, and I thought, "how do I get a real job doing this?" The university appointments people were no help, though someone in my college said that a bloke called Harry Evans, who had been of the college eight years earlier, was now in journalism.

I found out there were two so-called training schemes for graduates - Westminster Press and Kemsley Newspapers. I chose Kemsley - which then became Thomson - because their papers were in big cities. The Withy Grove, Manchester office of Kemsley was the biggest newspaper office in Europe. Apart from the *Chron*, which boasted 1 million readers every night, they produced the northern editions of nationals, such as *The Sunday Times*, *Empire News*, *Sunday Graphic* and *Sunday Chronicle*, plus the *Daily Mirror*, *News of the World* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

The training scheme was a joke. No courses, no exams. I did go to shorthand lessons, found myself with a class of 14-year-old girls, and gave up. They were too quick for me.

The advantage, for a graduate, was that if you survived a year they might move you around in the group. For the first few weeks I was sent out with a senior reporter, Barry Cockerell. We would go to the scene of a crime or accident, Barry would get a few quotes from the police, the fire chief,

a couple of witnesses - then he'd rush to a telephone box and dictate a story that made sense straight off.

When my time came, I stood behind the phone box for about two hours, scribbling away, and then got an awful bollocking from the deputy news editor, who hated me, and hated all graduates, because I had missed three editions. In those days, the *Chron*, and our deadly rival the *News*, had about six different editions a day.

I slowly realised it was all a trick. Barry had about five

Most hacks sit silently in front of their screen, not talking, not communing, seeing little of real life

formats for such news stories, which fitted almost anything. After nine months, I was moved to London on the *Sunday Graphic*. It was Fleet Street. Nine months later, in January 1960, I joined *The Sunday Times*.

I was the boy reporter on the Attila column, under Robert Robinson, and then Nicholas Toynbee. I thought: "I'm stuck here; I'll never move up; you have to be Oxbridge or public school." And it was pretty boring, having to write about who would be the next Bishop of London or Master of Balliol. Then, in the mid-Sixties it all changed. I was able to write about the people I wanted to: gritty northern writers, scruffy Cockney photographers, Liver-

pool pop singers. I was on *The Sunday Times* for about 20 years, doing many things including editing the colour magazine and the women's pages - or the *Look* pages, as we treacherously called them.

Since then I have become a media tart, or, as it is known, a freelancer. I will write for anyone about anything - well, almost. Over the years, I've done regular columns for *Punch*, *Stamp* News, and currently the *New Statesman*.

Plus columns that didn't turn out so regular. The *London Evening Standard* gave me the push after six months, because I was praising comprehensives too often. I think *The Independent on Sunday* sacked me because they wanted a woman columnist.

I was the TV critic on the *Mail on Sunday's* Night and Day section for six months when the editor, Jocelyn Targett, came all the way from London to the Lake District to see me, in his chauffeur-driven Jag. We did a 10-minute walk to the lake, he sacked me, got in his Jag and drove back. I was so amazed I forgot to ask why. It came out later that David English had taken against me, especially when I boasted I'd never seen *EastEnders*.

This is the nature of anyone in the media. In the olden days, papers were grossly over-staffed, so if you fell out of favour, you could sit around and have longer lunches.

These days, there are no lunches, for most hacks. They sit silently in front of their screen all day, in their vast, open-plan offices, not talking, not communing, working late, seeing very little of real life, which is why they have to get their inspiration from the rest of the media.

Papers don't have the staff feature writers they once had, and the differences between tabloid and broadsheet have almost disappeared. Executives move around between them, and they take their contacts with them.



The young journalist Hunter Davies in the Sixties

They are all following each other's tales. Today, I work every morning on my books then, around one o'clock, I get a call from some breathless executive, straight out of morning conference, who will say, "Quick, Hunt, can you do us 800 words on trainers?" "What's the angle," I say. "Oh, there's a par saying that Nike's shares have fallen." I was asked by three different papers to do that. They all saw the same little story and thought of the same follow-up.

It's good that there are so many papers, even if they are London-based. Strange how so-called modern technology has reduced the number of different editions. There are no northern editions at all. Withy Grove in Manchester is a shell, about to become a multiplex cinema, and young reporters are now properly trained media graduates.

In the Sixties, if I got a good show in *The Sunday Times*, I knew that almost everyone I met next day would have read it. Now I often don't even read my own stuff - there are just so many papers, so many sections. I can't now remember who I did that piece on trainers for - or if it appeared - but I did get paid...

ANALYSIS

PAUL MCCANN

March of the old men marks Sky's new dawn

FROM ONE angle the defection last week of Jimmy Hill from the BBC to Sky's Sports News channel looks a little like the creation of a television retirement home in the sky.

Hill, the veteran sports pundit and broadcaster, has joined forces with that other television institution, Barry Norman, who moved from the BBC to Sky in June.

The fact that both men are in the autumn of their careers - Hill is 70 and Norman 64 - looks to some as though they have decided to make some serious money before they think about retiring permanently to the celebrity golf circuit.

Others are inclined to view these two defections as the beginning of a much-heralded move of terrestrial institutions to Sky. The argument goes that, just as sport has moved largely to pay television, so eventually the top-rating shows and stars from terrestrial channels will follow the money.

Indeed, it is an old saw of media reporting that every year, when Granada's contract to supply *Coronation Street* to ITV comes up for renewal, a story appears in the press claiming that the soap is about to move to Sky.

Elizabeth Murdoch, Sky's general manager, has declared her intention to turn Sky 1 into a general entertainment channel to compete with ITV and Channel 5.

In order to do this Murdoch will need her own home-made programmes, because UK audiences are heroically resistant to imported programmes, and because we have a smaller proportion of foreign programmes in peak time than any other equivalent market.

If Ms Murdoch is hunting for home-grown talent, the obvious place to look is terrestrial television. This has prompted fears of spiralling talent inflation, just like the sports rights inflation that was created when Sky got out its sports chequebook.

However, it should be argued that the two swallows, Hill and Norman, do not a Sky summer make.

The satellite broadcaster's profits are down this year because of its funding of new digital channels and its subsidy for set-top decoders.

It looks as though Norman and Hill want some serious money before they retire permanently to celebrity golf

Sky, frankly, does not have the cash to go on a spending spree for something of such unquantifiable value as talent.

And even without its digital commitments, once Sky's spending on sports rights - and that's mainly Premier League football - is taken out of its programme budget, its star-buying powers are dwarfed by BBC1 and ITV.

Instead Sky's programming has followed the pattern of Fox, its sister network in America. Fox has succeeded by buying American football rights and then innovating in the other parts of its schedules. Sitcoms such as *The Simpsons* and *Married with Children* upset American moralists when the station

first aired, because of their irreverent take on family life. However, what was offensive to some was funny to a highly valuable younger television audience.

In its home-grown programming Sky insists that it is interested in creating new genres rather than in stealing them. With programmes such as *Friday Uncovered* it is fair to say that Sky has been innovative, even if the programmes are of dubious worth.

And in the case of both Hill and Norman there are very specific reasons why the satellite broadcaster has been able to lure them on board. Norman is the bigger purchase, reportedly costing the channel £300,000 a year, because it is intended that he should give a face to Sky's plethora of film offerings on its new digital platforms.

Hill looks like a more opportunistic buy, but he fits the same strategy of getting established faces to help brand-new services.

Hill was available for the simple reason that everything he did for the BBC had been bought up by Sky or ITV. "This was not a decision of mine," he said last week. "The BBC doesn't have any of the programmes I've done for them in the past because the BBC has lost all the contracts for the FA Cup and so on."

They will miss me around World Cup time, but, apart from that, it won't make much difference to them, me going." Hill will also be part of Sky's digital services, and undoubtedly there will be further smash-and-grab raids on terrestrial institutions as the broadcaster seeks to fill its hundreds of channels. However, wholesale lifting is not in Sky's plans.

JAN 10 1999

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CVs should be sent to:
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Tel: 01202 551255

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Closing date for applications is September 1st.

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Spring IT Training

The new name for Harley-West Training

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY

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Application forms and further information are available from the Personnel Unit, Department of Planning, Transport & Economic Strategy, PO Box 43, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4EX. Tel: (01926) 412458 (24 hour answerphone).

Closing date for applications 18th September 1998.

Interviews will be held in Rugby on 30th September 1998.



APPOINTMENTS DIARY

Monday
IT, Science,
Engineering

Tuesday
Media, Marketing,
Sales

Wednesday
Finance, Legal,
Secretarial

Thursday
Education, Graduate

Sunday
Public General



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TUESDAY RADIO

Radio 1
(97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Whiley. 3.00 Dave Pearce. 6.30 Steve Lamacq. 8.30 Digital Update. 8.40 John Peel. 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs. 12.00 The Breakfast. 2.00 Charlie Jordan. 4.00 - 6.30 Chris Moyles.

Radio 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Carl Davis Classics. 8.00 Nigel Ogden. 9.00 Blackpool. The Resort without Peer. See *Pick of the Day*. 10.00 Kennedy and the Violin. 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.05 Steve Madden. 3.00 - 4.00 Annie Othen.

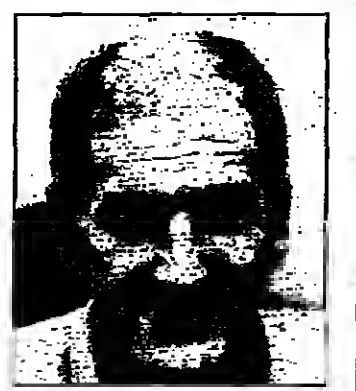
Radio 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
8.00 On Air. 10.00 Masterworks. 11.30 Artist of the Week. 12.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Proms Composers of the Week: Elser and Well. 1.00 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 BBC Proms 98. (R) 4.00 Choral Voices. 4.45 Music Machine. (R) 5.00 In Tune. 7.00 BBC Proms 98. 7.35 Ancient Landscape. During the interval we are transported to Finland. 7.55 Concert. Part 2. Sibelius: Four Lemminkäinen Legends. 9.40 Postscript. Michael Billington talks to actors and singers about their experiences of playing the same character in theatrical and cinematic productions. 2: Kristine Olesinski and Sara Kestelman talk about playing Lady Macbeth. (R) 9.35 Phantasm. Laurence Dreyfus introduces a programme of English viol music, ayres and divisions performed by Phantasm. Orlando Gibbons: Four Fantasias. 3. Tobias Hume: A Merry Conceit: The King of Denmark's Delight. The Earle of Montgomerie's Delight (Captain Hume's Poetical Music). Matthew Locke: Duos for two

PICK OF THE DAY

BLACKPOOL ISN'T just deckchairs, candyfloss and slot machines, cry its residents in *The Resort without Peer* (9pm R2). In anticipation of the annual illuminations, Russ Abbot (right) enlists the help of Pleasure Beach impresario Doris Thompson, gay club owner Basil Newby and tourism director Barry Morris as he sets about defending the beleaguered beach resort which

calls itself the Las Vegas of the North. Among her many bizarre requests, Granny has requested a Viking funeral in On the Fringe - the Valhalla Dispatch (3.45pm, R4), a rib-ticking comedy from Scottish stand-up veteran Brian Hemmigan. Her family's efforts to respect her wishes lead them to pester the Norwegian embassy for advice.

FIONA STURGES



basse viols. Christopher Simpson: Division in G. Thomas Tomkins: Fantasia. 3. Thomas Lupo: Fantasia. 3 bass viols. Elway Bevin: Browning. 10.30 Edinburgh International Festival 98. Presented by Kirsteen McCue. Orlando Consort with members of the Dunedin Consort. The first of two late night concerts from Greyfriars Kirk with music celebrating the composers of Notre Dame Cathedral. Tonight the theme is Christmas. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Jean Sibelius. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today. 9.00 On the Ropes. 9.30 Tales from the Village. 9.45 All Points North. 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour. 11.00 Cajun Country. (R) 11.30 Sketches by Boz. 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Points of Law. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.45 Afternoon Play: Hydro. 3.00 NEWS: The Exchange (077) 580 4444. 3.30 Original Features. 3.45 On the Fringe. See *Pick of the Day*. 4.00 NEWS: A Good Read. 4.30 Shop Talk. 5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 The Nuisance. 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. 7.45 Dear Jayne Brown. 'Honest Merr' by Valerie Georgeon. Charles Agnew is so widely hailed as an honourable man that Jayne regards it her solemn duty to unmask him. With Jill Balcon, Stille Goret and Hugh Fraser. Director Celia de Wolff (2/5). 8.00 NEWS: Franks, Lies and Celluloid. Why does the Hunchback of Notre Dame never get the girl? And why does Cinderella have to be beautiful to be good? Film-maker Alex Cox looks at the portrayal of disabled people in feature films. Isn't it time film-makers got real about disability? 8.40 In Touch. News for visually impaired people. 9.00 NEWS: Patient Progress. 'Prisoners of Pleasure'. In the third of four programmes, Sue Armstrong discovers why only some people become addicted to drugs. Cutting-edge science, both in Britain and in the USA, is teasing apart the genes that may be responsible for addiction, while new imaging work reveals important changes in the brains of addicts. 9.30 On the Ropes. John Humphrys talks to six successful people who have weathered storms in their careers. 5: 'Lord

Taylor of Warwick'. Formerly plain John Taylor, the black barista who was selected as Conservative parliamentary candidate for Cheltenham faced opposition even from within his own party. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: First Love. Ivan Turgenev's classic translated by Isidore Berlin, read by Nigel Anthony, abridged by Doreen Estall (2/5). 11.00 Goodness Gracious Me. Award-winning Asian sketch show. The Guru shows literary incursions and the Minx Twins tackle the thornier aspects of feminism. Starring Sanjeev Bhaskar, Kulvinder Ghir, Meera Syal and Nina Wadia. (R) 11.30 Talking Pictures. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Tales from Ovid. (R) 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 1.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. **Radio 4 LW** (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. **Radio 5 Live** (93.9, 90.9kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast Programme. 9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Oldroyd and Co. 4.00 Nationwide. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Jonathan Overend introduces the night's Nationwide Football coverage and day two of the tennis US Open at Flushing Meadows. 10.00 Late Night Live. The day's big stories with Nick Robinson. Including 10.30 a full sports round-up. 11.00 News and finance. And between 11.30 and 1.00 a sharp and spirited late-night topical discussion. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

Classic FM (100.9-101.8MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 6.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cull. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1250kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Bobby Hain. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Mark Forster including London Calling at 6.45. 6.45 James Merritt (AM only). 7.30 James Merritt (AM/FM). 10.00 Paul Coyte. 1.00 Peter Poulton. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark. **World Service** (198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 The Farming World. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Discovery. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Meridian (Live). 4.00 World News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.15 Sports Roundup. 4.30 - 7.00 The World Today. **Talk Radio** (198kHz) 7.00 Bill Overton and Kirsty Young. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Tommy Boyd. 5.00 Peter Deeley. 7.00 Nick Abbot. 9.00 James Whaley. 1.00 Ian Collins. 5.00 - 7.00 The Early Show with Bill Overton.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

NEARLY 12 years have passed since I started writing this column. In 1986, Kasparov had recently wrested the world title from Karpov and the chess world was in complete disarray. The president of Fide, Florencio Campomanes, was heavily criticised for his autocratic style and faced challenges to his leadership as well as threats of a players rebellion. Meanwhile, the English team, led by Nigel Short, were looking forward to mounting a challenge to Soviet supremacy. Twelve years on, little has changed. Kasparov and Karpov are

now both champions of rival organisations. Fide has a new president, Kirsan Ilyumjinov, just as autocratic and criticised as his predecessor, and Nigel Short has just won the British championship again. All that has changed is that the dominance of the USSR has been bequeathed to Russia. For me, however, the time has come to move on to other things. From tomorrow, the chess column in this paper will be written by Jon Speelman, grandmaster and world championship semi-finalist. I hope the task gives him as much pleasure as it has given me.

CREATIVITY

WILLIAM HARTSTON

SETTING A Creativity competition is rather like writing the introduction to a joke, then relying on someone else to produce the punch line. That at least was my experience at the second Mind Sports Olympiad on Saturday when 35 eager contestants sat down for an event described presumptuously as the "World Creativity Championship". Having last year set tasks similar to those of *The Independent's* weekly Creativity competition, I felt that something different was needed this time. So we began by setting competitors the practical task of concocting reasons for being precisely 17 minutes late for an appointment. The other task of the first round was to describe the consequences of finding a sea of chocolate on Mars.

Two or three contestants brightly put one and one together and came up with the excuse that they had gone into shock for 17 minutes after hearing the news about the chocolate on Mars, but the best answer to that question began: "Well, there were 17 of us trapped in an egg timer..." The most mathematically precise contestant explained it away by mishearing "10.15" for "10.30".

The Martian chocolate brought some poor jokes about Mars Bars, with the more creative contestants veering off into the outer reaches of the Galaxy and the Milky Way. There were also a number of references to fat and spotty aliens.

Round two posed questions in a parody of normal puzzle format: 1. What is the next item in a series beginning G, G, G, G, G? 2. Which of A, E, I, H, O, U is the odd one out? 3. If 179084 is the answer, what was the question?

Nobody, oddly enough, found the intended answers. The first sequence comprises the last letters of the days of the week in German,

beginning on Thursday, so the next letter is H. Someone did, however, suggest the answer N, because the sequence is the third letter of every number beginning at 84. The answer to the second question is I because all the others are second letters of days of the week in English. And the third is: "If I times AITKEN equals SLEAZE, what is the value of AITKEN?"

In round three, contestants were given the text of six disconnected news stories of the past month and asked to identify the supposed conspiracy that lay behind them all. Linking an illiterate Australian deaf mute murder suspect who knew no sign language with a team of Milwaukee women who have set up a company to remove pet dogs' droppings was no easy feat, but most contestants managed it. One man, however, startled passers-by between rounds when he was heard to shout in dismay "Oh no, I didn't get the dog shit in".

The final round had a picture from the patent document of an odd item of headgear. (In fact a self-doffing hat) and another incomprehensible picture of a naked Japanese bird-catcher to explain.

In all cases, marks were awarded more for quality than quantity of ideas expressed, with original ideas scoring higher than those shared that appeared in several responses. In the end, there was a tie for first place between Bruce Birchall, a regular contributor to this Creativity column, and David Bodycombe, author of *The Mammoth Puzzle Carnival* (Robinson, £6.99). As there was only one gold medal, the tie was split in favour of Bruce Birchall because of his perfect 25/25 score on round two. A man who can state with conviction that 179084 is the number of cheese-graters in Swindon deserves the title of World Creativity Champion.

PUZZLE

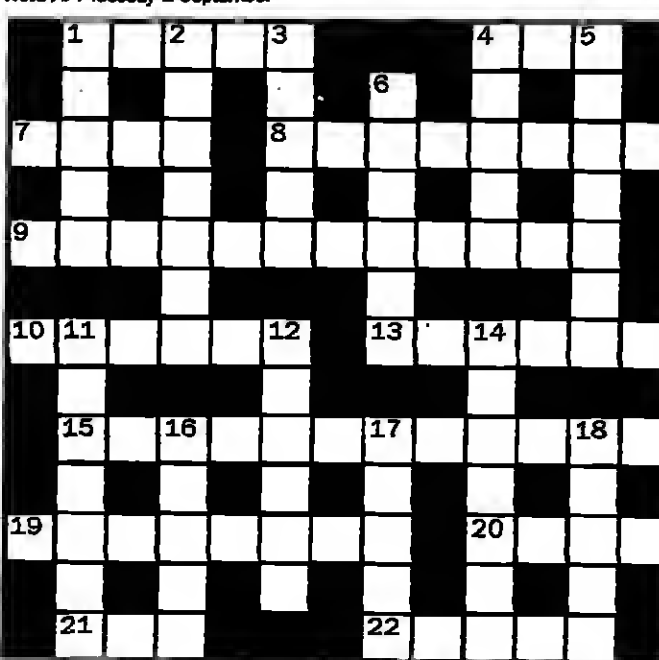
No puzzle today - unless you'd like to check the claim in the column above about the solution to J times AITKEN equals SLEAZE (where each different letter represents a distinct digit). The daily puzzle is now taking a break, pending reconstruction of our games features.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

AIM PLASTIC is the odd one out. The others are anagrams of European capitals: Amsterdam, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Brussels. AIM PLASTIC is an anagram of CAPITALISM.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No. 3704 Tuesday 1 September



ACROSS

- Is aware of (5)
- Moist (3)
- Complaint (4)
- Word definitions (8)
- Brained (5-3-4)
- Group of scouts etc (6)
- Unassuming (6)
- Very impressive (3-9)
- US legislature (8)
- Near (4)
- Drunkard (3)
- Skiff (5)

DOWN

- Geofflect (5)
- Commissioned member of forces (7)
- Brazilian dance (5)
- Turn rapidly (5)
- Big cat (7)
- Bicycle made for two (6)
- Warlike tribe of women (7)
- Cavalryman (6)
- Disturb (7)
- Rowing crew (5)
- Former Turkish title (5)
- Darkness (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Pose, 4 Taste (Post-haste), 9 Alibi, 10 Unlute, 11 Ai-mide, 12 Atop, 13 Sulphuric acid, 17 Tang, 18 Anomize, 21 Chateau, 22 Blend, 23 Drunk, 24 Dome. DOWN: 2 Oiler, 3 Epidemic, 4 Thundershock, 5 Soul, 6 Elastic, 7 Harass, 8 Heap, 14 Layard, 15 Camp-ted, 16 Denite, 17 Tuck, 19 Steam, 20 Beam.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

THE AVENGERS (8pm Granada Plus). If you - like most of the critics - have been disappointed by the big-screen version of *The Avengers*, you might like to refresh yourself with the small-screen original, which begins a twice-daily repeat run today. In tonight's episode "From Venus with Love", our heroes try to put a stop to a deadly ray that is zapping scientists. Whatever capers they get up to, Patrick Macnee and

Diana Rigg, as Steed and Emma Peel, remind us how effortlessly stylish they were. Gene Hackman (right) always brings a sense of authority to a film. He elevates *Extreme Measures* (10pm Sky Movies Screen 2), an otherwise workaday thriller from Michael Apted about dodgy medical experiments. It also stars Hugh Grant and was produced by his girlfriend, Liz Hurley.

JAMES RAMPTON



Sky Movies Screen 1
6.00 That's Right - You're Wrong (1939) (2113738). 7.35 Ladyhawke (1985) (4910994). 9.35 Running Brave (1983) (2077093). 11.00 Trail of Tears (1993) (3161453). 1.00 That's Right - You're Wrong (1939) (2113738). 3.00 Ladyhawke (1985) (4910994). 5.00 Running Brave (1983) (2077093). 7.00 The First Wives Club (1996) (130448). 9.00 Die Hard (1978) (3150062). 1.00 Die Hard (1978) (3150062). 1.40 Kissing a Dream (1996) (407482). 2.45 American Blues (1996) (514685). 4.25 - 6.00 Trail of Tears (1993) (217734).

Sky Movies Screen 2
6.00 Redwood Curtain (1995) (20082). 8.00 The Ditchdiggers (1997) (784688). 10.00 A Different Kind of Christmas (1998) (32535). 12.00 Redwood Curtain (1995) (20082). 2.00 The Ditchdiggers (1997) (784688). 4.00 A Pig's Tale (1995) (3212). 6.00 The Bomber Boys (1995) (38178). 7.30 Behind the Scenes (1995) (38178). 9.00 Dead Silence (1996) (31697). 10.00 Extreme Measures (1996) (33004). See *Pick of the Day*. 12.00 G.I. Joe (1995) (335578). 1.50 Eat a Bowl of Tea (1998) (147589). 3.35 - 6.00 Escape to Nowhere (1996) (6949043).

Sky Movies Gold
4.00 Merrill's Marauders (1962) (3251733). 6.00 The Guns of Navarone (1961) (3247031). 8.35 The Big Red One (1980) (9775468). 10.30 Battle of the Bulge (1965) (6122553). 1.00 Hell to Eternity (1960) (7059583). 3.00 How I Won the War (1957) (5821583). 5.00 Close.

Bravo
8.00 A-Team (7332694). 9.00 Real Stories of Highway Patrol (525444). 9.30 Cops (402593). 10.00 The Basement (537791). 10.30 Red Shoe Diaries (537373). 11.00 Filmmaker's Action: Deep Cover (1992) (7252277). 1.20 Red Shoe Diaries (4337802). 2.00 The Basement (731818). 2.30 Cops (733753). 3.00 Film: Strange Behaviour (1981) (758840). 5.00 Real Stories of Highway Patrol (402598). 5.30 - 6.00 Frisky Stories (477091).

Discovery Channel
4.00 Fishing Adventures (278453). 4.30 Top Marine (280804). 5.00 First Fight (535708). 5.30 Jurassic II (214264). 6.00 Wildlife SOS (211787). 6.30 The World of Lobsters and Crabs (535449). 7.00 Arthur C. Clarke's World of Strange Powers (291933). 8.00 Discover Magazine (730950). 9.00 Hitler's Handmen

(7329994). 10.00 Psycho Killers: to Kill and Kill Again (732208). 11.00 The Last Great Roadshow (734004). 12.00 First Fight (535708). 12.30 Top Marine (280804). 1.00 Psycho Killers: Violent Minds (305578). 2.00 Close.

Sky 1
6.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (1997). 8.30 Street Sharks (44438). 9.00 Garfield and Friends (89163). 9.30 The Simpsons (23791). 10.00 Games World (248187). 10.35 Games World (272423). 10.50 Just Kidding (7042). 11.00 Superman (57448). 12.00 Married with Children (4444). 12.30 M*A*S*H (746604). 12.55 The Special Collection (582373). 1.00 Garfield (325405). 1.55 Special K Collection (5108710). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (582533). 2.55 The Special K Collection (582533). 3.00 Jenny Jones (585333). 3.35 Special K (114748). 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (20133). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (7246). 6.00 Simpsons (7401). 6.30 Dream Team (1081). 7.00 Simpsons (8975). 7.30 Simpsons (7285). 8.00 3rd Rock from the Sun (7859). 8.30 3rd Rock from the Sun (7859). 9.00 Killers in the Water (78807). 10.00 When Animals Attack II (79994). 11.00 Dream Team (38158). 11.30 Star Trek: DS9 (8187). 12.30 Nowhere Man (40005). 1.30 - 8.00 Long Play (508383).

Sky Sports 1
7.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 7.35 V-Max (71888). 7.45 Survival of the Fittest

(7329994). 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 8.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 9.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 10.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 11.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 12.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 1.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 2.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 3.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 4.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 5.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 6.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 7.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 8.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 9.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 10.35 Sky Sports Centre (47068). 11.00 Sky Sports 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